

SERVICE INNOVATION COMMUNITY TEAMWORK FUN

# 2008 LIBERTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT





# ***Liberty Parks and Recreation 2008 Annual Report***

How we measure success...

Fiscal Responsibility

Partnerships

Diversity

Effective Communication

Valued Workforce

Stewardship

Quality and Value of Service

## ***INSIDE THIS REPORT***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3. Message from the Director                                      | 16. Senior Services Division                  |
| 4. Park Board   | 19. Liberty Community Center                  |
| 5. Charitable Fund Committee<br>& Tree Board                      | 28. Fountain Bluff Sports<br>Complex & Sports |
| 6. Mission Statement,<br>Organizational Chart &<br>Park Amenities | 37. 2008 Budget                               |
| 9. Administration   | 42. 2009 Budget Goals                         |
| 10. Park Maintenance<br>Operations                                | 54. 2009 - "On the Horizon"                   |
|   | Back cover -<br>Community Partners            |



***Dennis Dovel,***  
***Director***  
***Parks and Recreation***



***Anna Slocum,***  
***Assistant Director***  
***Parks and Recreation***

The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department serves as a steward of Liberty's natural environment assets and as a coordinator of activities for its citizens. The work we do is a great privilege and a rewarding responsibility.

With pleasure we report our accomplishments in the 2008 annual report. The report summarizes our department operations for the past year and provides information on programs, new projects and finances. Through our stewardship of parks and recreation programs, we enhance the environmental, social, cultural, physical and economic health of the city and its residents.

As we look to the future for the Parks and Recreation Department, we must be willing to keep up with the changing world through; (1) program implementation, (2) financial accountability and (3) land acquisition. Staff must strive to offer quality programs that present a unique presence for the community to continue improvement of the overall livability. Still, what makes a community livable? Definitions will vary in their mix of economic, social, educational, cultural and natural qualities. But certainly great parks and recreation programs are a common attribute to all livable communities.

We are grateful to the citizens of Liberty for their support of the ¼ - cent Park Sales tax. Since its passage in 2000, the sales tax has enabled us to expand the Community Center, provide park amenities in neighborhood parks, help our citizens stay fit, provide passive recreational opportunities through trail development, build new playgrounds, mow acres and acres of grass and maintain sports fields. Liberty Parks and Recreation programs and services are making a vital contribution to the livability of this community, today and into the future.

Please take a few minutes to read through this information on how your parks and recreation tax dollars are being spent. As always, we welcome citizen feedback. Our board meetings are open to the public. You can always contact our staff by phone or through e-mail. Staff specific e-mails are located on the city of Liberty's web site at [www.ci.liberty.mo.us](http://www.ci.liberty.mo.us) We are proud to serve our growing and vibrant community and welcome your comments on how we are doing!

*Dennis Dovel*  
816.439.4363 (office)

*Anna Slocum*  
816.439.4366 (office)



## *Liberty Parks and Recreation Park Board*

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, the Liberty Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of the department is to enrich our community. In 2007, CNN Money Magazine rated Liberty as one of the top 100 American cities in which to live. That acknowledgment came largely because of the enrichment our Parks Department provides our city. We are pleased to say the department continued that tradition of enrichment again in 2008.

In 2008, we received a \$400,000 upgrade to our tennis courts, courtesy of the Liberty School District. Local members of the Earth Riders Trail Association bike riding club pitched in to build a community mountain bike trail in Stocksedale Park. Thousands of citizens participated in various programs offered by the Community Center. Thousands enjoyed the walking trails and open spaces in our city parks. In 2008, we saw increased registration for programs, and greater use of the walking trails and open spaces. Fountain Bluff continued to attract national attention. We hosted new, and bigger, national baseball tournaments. The tradition of enrichment continued in 2008. We are confident it will continue through 2009.

2009 brings familiar faces to Parks Department leadership positions. Longtime department Director Chris Deal resigned. While we miss him, Chris left a tremendous legacy in terms of the personnel he hired and trained; people like Dennis Dovel, Anna Slocum, Denny Persall and Donna Kay Taylor. We have no doubt that the new director, Dennis Dovel, will lead our Parks Department to even greater heights.

Dennis will have the help of newly promoted Assistant Director Anna Slocum and recently promoted Parks and Open Space Manager Denny Persall, both of whom have been integral to the Parks Department for years. The tradition of enrichment that Chris began will continue with the new leadership of Dennis, Anna, and Denny. Stalwart professionals like Community Center Manager Donna Kay Taylor will also help carry on the tradition.

No doubt 2009 will present financial challenges. As the recession continues, the Parks Department must adjust to decreased revenue. That will present a challenge to providing the same level of enrichment. Rest assured that we are committed to keeping the quality of Parks Department personnel, programming and facilities as high as the citizens of Liberty have come to expect. We will find a way to continue the tradition.

We expect the Liberty Parks and Recreation Charitable Fund to expand its role in helping the Parks Department. For example, the Charitable Fund recently instituted a scholarship program for children who cannot afford to participate in recreational sports programs. The Charitable Fund used donations to invest in the lives of boys and girls by helping with the cost of registration. The Charitable Fund will help further enrich our community in 2009.

Thank you again for your interest in, and support of, our Parks Department. We hope to see you at the Community Center, Sports Complex, on a walking trail, or in one of our city parks in the near future!

*Bill Niffen, President*



Bill Niffen,  
President



Betty Lou Anderson,  
Vice President



Neil Kanning,  
Secretary/Treasurer



Bob Burks,  
Member



Clint Newton,  
Member



Jim Tanner,  
Member



Steve Schwegler,  
Member



Jerry McCaslin,  
Member



Gary Moore,  
Member





## ***Liberty Parks and Recreation Charitable Fund***

### ***"Your Investment - Everyone's Reward"***

[www.ci.liberty.mo.us/LPRCF](http://www.ci.liberty.mo.us/LPRCF)

## **Members**

Bob Burks, Park Board Member, Chairman

Julie Casel, Community Member

David Fulk, Community Member

Paul Jenness, City Council Member

Jerry McCaslin, Park Board Member

Bill Niffen, Park Board President

## **Mission**

The Liberty Parks and Recreation Charitable Fund is a non-profit organization providing individuals, families, businesses and other organizations the means to financially contribute to the parks and recreation programs, projects and services benefiting the Liberty Community.

## **Objective**

To maintain or increase the parks and recreation service level, provide the ability to acquire property, develop, expand and renovate new public facilities and make major capital investments.

## ***Liberty Tree Board***

## **Members**

Neal Shoger, Chairman, Steve Karol, Theresa Brosman, Karen Sprinkle and Chris Veach

*"We are our parks. They help us, pay testament to what we believe in, where we stand, and how we stand apart from other places. Today, thanks to the vision of those before us, we stand out quite proudly."* Unknown Author





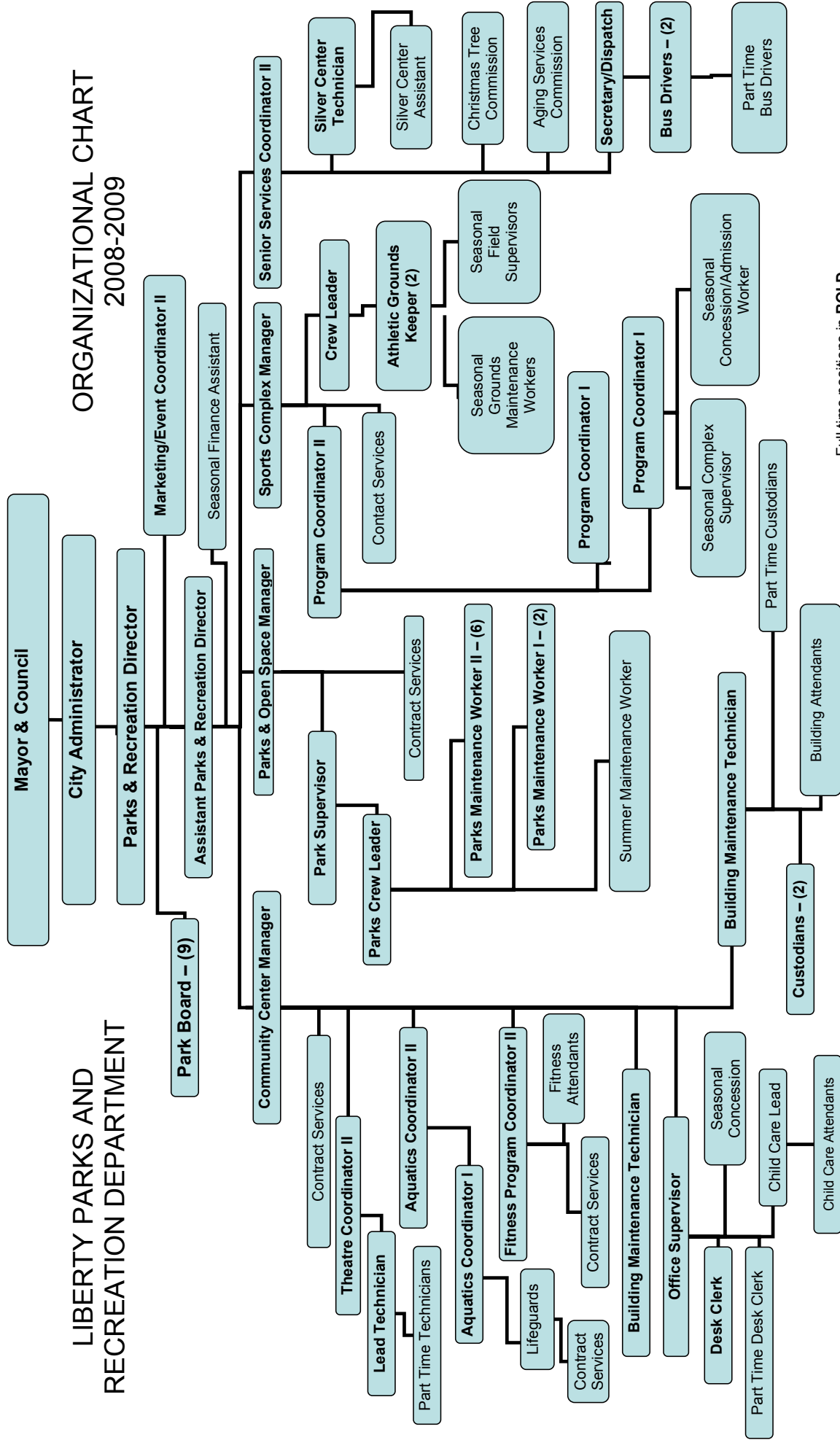


# Mission Statement

*The purpose of the Liberty Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Liberty through a mix of organized recreational, cultural and social programs, and utilization of community-owned facilities.*



Debbie Abernathy, Charles Anderson, Chrissy Birdsell, Brad Blackburn, Dan Bortko, Isaiah Bragg, Chris Carnes, Duane Carney, Dennis Dovel, Casey Gaines, Bruce Hickam, Rich Kingman, LeAnn Lawlor, Joe Lucas, Derek Mayden, Mike McClure, Paul Miller, Todd Munk, Mary Narron, Karen Oswald, Joe Overstreet, Denny Persall, Don Reckman, Curtis Renno, Angel Rose, Tom Shadid, Devin Skillman, Anna Slocum, B.J. Staab, Donna Kay Taylor, Nick Vassmer, Carl Welch, Claudea Williams, Nate Williams, Bryan Young & Pam Young (not pictured: Jeff Wolfgeher)



Full time positions in **BOLD**

Revised 5.26.09

## OS = Off Street

**P = Purchased**  
**D = Donated**

CP - Community Park, DP - District Park,  
NP - Neighborhood Park, SF - Special Facilities



# **ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

The Administration Division provides management support to the Sports Complex / Sports Programming, Community Center and Parks Maintenance divisions. This division is responsible for: developing and managing the budget; increasing public input and awareness of Parks and Recreation; implementation of Parks and Open Space Master Plan; working closely with the Park and Recreation Board, City Council, Park Charitable Fund, Tree Board and Tree Liberty; annual staff training on a local, state and national level; administering the Cooperative Use Agreement with Liberty Public Schools; producing of three program brochures per year; and providing administrative support to all divisions.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**



The 28th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Liberty Parks and Recreation and Liberty Super Target, was held at Stocksdale Park Saturday, March 15. Children up to 8 years of age were divided into three age groups to find over 15,000 eggs hidden in specific areas throughout the park. The Easter Bunny also made a special appearance during the hunt. This is the third year Liberty Super Target helped provide goody bags and candy for over 500 children and more than 40 volunteers for the event.

## **FALL FESTIVAL**

The Parks Department provides a liaison to attend the Chamber of Commerce planning meetings to help coordinate efforts between the entities for this successful annual event. The department provides picnic tables, bleachers, recycle containers, trash barrels and liners.

## **PARKS ON-LINE ([www.ci.liberty.mo.us/ParksOnline](http://www.ci.liberty.mo.us/ParksOnline))**

Wanting to stay current with program participants' request, the Parks Department began offering on-line registration for most programs in 2007. This allows patrons to register for most Parks programs from the comfort of their personal computer. During 2008, approximately 10 percent of registrations were completed through this service.

## **REC NEWS FLASH**

As an effort to keep the public informed of upcoming programs and events, the Parks Department developed the Rec News Flash in 2008. This electronic email newsletter is published two times a month providing residents pertinent information regarding the department. Residents can simply subscribe to the newsletter on the City website at: [www.ci.liberty.mo.us](http://www.ci.liberty.mo.us).

## **LIBERTY4thFEST**

Serving as a liaison to the Chamber of Commerce, this July 4th event was hosted at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex for the second year. The event featured Saucy Jack, Liberty Summer Band, balloon artists, face painters, caricature artists, concessions, multiple inflatable apparatuses for children and concluded with a fireworks display at dark. The Parks & Recreation Department attended all planning meetings, coordinated arrangements with vendors, assisted with parking the day of the event, provided the refreshments, assisted with trash detail, event operations and clean up the day of the event.



## **LIBERTY SUMMER BAND**

This all volunteer 100+ person concert band performed three free concerts on the Liberty Historic Square in June. The department provides assistance in transporting equipment and set-up for each concert.

## *Park Operation/Maintenance*



Brad Blackburn, Duane Carney, Mike McClure, Joe Overstreet, Denny Persall, Curtis Renno, Tom Shadid, Devin Skillman, Nick Vassmer & Bryan Young.  
(not pictured: Jeff Wolfgeher)

The Operations and Maintenance Division consists of one Parks Manager, one Park Supervisor, one Crew Chief, and eight full-time maintenance workers. The Parks Operation/Maintenance division is responsible for: mowing park land and rights-of-way; building maintenance on all park facilities excluding the Community Center; cleaning and maintaining the following amenities: skate park, tennis courts, restrooms, shelters, trails, playgrounds, spray grounds, ball fields, park grounds, snow removal, maintenance on equipment, and the removal or trimming of street trees is provided through this division. This division also provides a staff liaison for **Liberty Tree Board** and **Tree Liberty**.

*"Believe one who knows: you will find something greater in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters." St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

# Park Operation/ Maintenance

**Mowing** - Staff mows and trims approximately 500 acres of park land and eight miles of right of ways and medians throughout the city. Five full-time employees mow and maintain the frontline areas on a weekly basis April - October. Brush hawg mowing also occurs on 25 acres of secondary park land behind houses at Clay Ridge, Clay Meadows, Canterbury, Westboro, and areas on Clay Woods Parkway on a biweekly rotation. Staff spent between 160 and 200 hours mowing each week.

**Building Maintenance** - Responsible for maintaining park building facilities excluding the Community Center. These facilities include 11 shelters, 11 outdoor restroom facilities, two concession buildings, an amphitheater, an office, a library, and several maintenance buildings located within the park system. One employee maintains the shelters and restrooms daily. While other building facilities are inspected once a month and repaired.

**Skate Park and Playgrounds** - The city's skate park and 14 playgrounds, contain approximately 128 individual structure pieces. They are examined daily for hazards or safety issues. Because the maintenance division recognizes the importance of providing a safe skate park and playgrounds for the community, three employees volunteered and achieved playground inspection certification. Detailed monthly inspections are performed on the skate park and each playground to ensure all play equipment is safe.



**Spraygrounds** - Two spraygrounds located at City and Ruth Moore parks open the week of Memorial Day and are in operation until the end of September. The spraygrounds are cleaned daily and chemical levels are tested and monitored throughout the day to provide a safe environment for children to play.



**Ball fields** - Staff maintains 17 athletic fields for recreation league participants and the general public. Eight of these facilities are baseball/ softball fields maintained for the recreation program from March to mid-July. The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department and Liberty Public School District work together to maintain four of the eight fields. Seven of the 15 baseball/ softball fields are available for practice. Two other areas are designated as multipurpose fields for football, soccer and other activities. The maintenance division performs mowing and other game preparation tasks to guarantee safe and playable facilities. Such tasks include: mowing game fields three times per week, seeding, fertilizing, aerating, field marking, and daily grooming of the infield surfaces.





# Park Operation/ Maintenance

**Park Cleanliness** - One employee is designated to maintain the cleanliness of 25 park areas seven days a week. This employee cleans all restroom facilities and shelter houses, and inspects park amenities daily. Each park area is patrolled for loose litter and all trash barrels are emptied. As reservations are scheduled, the employee posts a reservation sign and makes certain the shelter area is clean for the enjoyment of our patrons.

**Snow Removal** - After the ground accumulates two or more inches of snowfall, the park maintenance division begins a snow removal process. Three employees work in coordination with the Public Works Department for the removal of snow on 20 miles of roadway. These three employees are also responsible for plowing parking areas in all parks at the Community Center, City Hall, the Metro Bus Stop, and city parking lots. Five other employees remove snow and treat the sidewalks at City Hall, the Metro Stop, Frank Hughes Library, and city parking lots.

**Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance** - The division has implemented a preventative maintenance program for all vehicles and equipment to ensure long-term use and efficiency. Park employees inspect, check fluid levels, and grease equipment each day. Records are maintained on equipment repairs and hours or mileage of use to make sure maintenance needs are performed within the recommended maintenance interval.



**Tennis Courts** - Eight tennis courts for the citizens of Liberty are maintained by this division. Two of these courts are located at Manor Hill and Franklin Elementary schools. Both of these Two of these courts are located at Manor Hill and Franklin Elementary schools. Both of these facilities are single courts with lights and timers to allow patrons to play during the day are through evening. Bennett Park offers six tennis courts, a cooperative agreement between Liberty Public School District and the Liberty Parks Department. This new facility was financed by the school district and is maintained by the Park's maintenance division. These courts offer a state-of-the-art low glare lighting system, spectator viewing area, and will have a small pavilion or shelter. This facility is open to the public and reserved as the home courts for the Liberty Blue Jay's high school tennis teams.



# Park Operation/ Maintenance

**Landscaping** - Staff sustains landscaping operations among 17 parks and all city buildings. These operations include trimming, planting, mulching, weeding, designing and installing landscape beds. Park maintenance also maintains and beautifies the City Hall property through planting annuals in flower boxes and flower beds twice a year. During the growing season, the Liberty Parks Department also contributes a watering truck and employee to water 25 flower containers in downtown Liberty three days a week.



**Parks and Street Trees** – This division maintains all trees in 28 different park areas. This includes more than 400 acres of park land and two cemeteries. When issues with damaged, hazardous, or dead trees in the parks or cemeteries occurs one of our arborists investigates the problem and corrects it as needed. Staff is also responsible for street trees located in the rights-of-way and easements throughout the entire city. When a citizen calls to report an issue with a street tree, one of the certified arborists determines if the Parks Department can do the work or if it needs to be contracted.



**Shelters** - Eight shelters can be reserved in four different parks throughout the City. In 2008, park shelters were reserved for 223 occasions of which 216 were made by Liberty residents.



# Park Operation/ Maintenance

- **January 2008** – Received \$40,000 grant from North Kansas City for renovations on Frank Hughes Library. These renovations included replacing three furnaces and air conditioners, installing two sump pumps, roof work, painting the entire exterior, and replacing five windows.
- **February 2008** – Installation of 18 shade structures over the bleachers on six baseball/softball fields at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex.

Removed 28 hazardous street trees with a \$10,000 TRIM grant from the Missouri Conservation Department.

Entered a five-year cooperative agreement with Earth Riders Trail Association for development and maintenance of the 2.5 mile bike trail at Stocksdale Park.

- **March 2008** – Assisted with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Stocksdale Park, successfully parking more than 300 cars.
- **April 2008** – Planted 42 street trees in the Witherfield subdivision. The trees were funded through a \$6,300 grant received by Tree Liberty.

Worked with Liberty Tree Board and Tree Liberty to celebrate Arbor Day at Ruth Moore Park.

- **May 2008** – Planted flowers in two landscaping beds and eight flower pots for the Liberty Heritage Festival, and set up 14 picnic tables and 35 trash cans for the event.

Installed sump pumps, furnaces and air conditioners at Frank Hughes Library with \$23,626 of the grant from the City of North Kansas City.

- **June 2008** – With the assistance of the Earth Riders Trail Association the first 2.5 miles of bike trails at Stocksdale Park opened. The grand opening of the bike trail was June 7th.

The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department along with the Liberty School District opened the six new tennis courts at Bennett Park at the end of June. This facility has state-of-the-art fencing, viewing areas, courts, and anti-glare lighting. The school district uses these courts for home matches and district events in the fall and spring of the year. The renovations and additions to this park's tennis courts, was made possible through funding from the Liberty School District.

- **July 2008** – Redesigned the landscaping areas at City Hall. This included replacing all shrubs, flowers, and mulch throughout the City Hall grounds.

Assisted in parking cars for the Liberty4thFest fireworks at the Fountain Bluff Sports Complex.





# Park Operation/ Maintenance

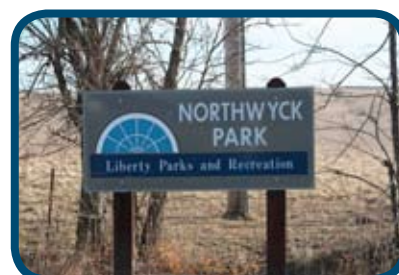
- **September 2008** – Replaced concrete entry sidewalks to the Community Center. A total of seven yards of concrete were poured. Staff also replaced damaged pave stones on the entry way area.

Received 100 donated trees from the Missouri Forest Releaf program in St. Louis, which staff planted at the Stocksdale Park nursery. Once the trees mature they will be planted in area parks and rights-of-way throughout the city.

Purchased and installed three new ramps for Bennett Park skate park.

Roof work and exterior painting was completed at Frank Hughes Library with \$10,915 of the grant money received from North Kansas City.

- **November 2008** – Installed and decorated a live Christmas tree at the old Clay County Courthouse on the Liberty Square. This tree, which was the centerpiece of the 2008 Community Christmas Tree downtown lighting ceremony, was donated from Schmitt's Tree Farm in Holt, Mo. Schmitt's Tree Farm has donated the Christmas tree for the past three years .



# *Senior Services Division*



Chrissy Birdsell, LeAnn Lawlor, Mary Narron, Angel Rose & Carl Welch

The mission of the Senior Services division is to support the independence and well being of older adults by providing programs and services to meet their current and future needs; thereby enhancing their dignity, self-worth and lifestyle. This mission is carried out through three different areas.





# ***Senior Services Division***

**The Liberty Silver Center** is a place where older adults and physically challenged individuals can come to socialize and enjoy a hot nutritious meal. In 2008, 1,787 unduplicated persons came to the Silver Center, of which 147 were first-time visitors. The staff and volunteers at the Silver Center served 10,628 meals. In addition, approximately 960 different activities, classes, programs and special events were offered in 2008. The Silver Center has a full-time staff person and one part-time staff person as well as a multitude of volunteers. In 2008, 365 volunteer hours were donated to the Silver Center.

Health and wellness are the keys to a person remaining independent. Water aerobics classes and land aerobic classes are offered at the Silver Center and Community Center. In 2008, 413 people exercised a total of 3,026 hours in the land aerobics class. Wellness opportunities, such as blood pressure checks, flu shots, mental health classes, a senior resource fair and prescription drug savings classes, also were offered. In total, 423 individuals participated in the wellness programs.

Indoor recreation and socialization programs also are offered at the Silver Center. As with other programs, indoor recreation helps facilitate socialization and creates friendship for many seniors who do not have families and are often isolated. Visitors enjoy bridge, canasta, movie days, live musical entertainment, skipbo and many parties. In 2008, 847 individuals participated 7,800 times in one or more of the above activities. In 2007, the City of Liberty donated four computers to the Silver Center. In 2008, 104 people used the computers a total of 330 times.

Leisure activities are also available at the Silver Center. These activities include day trips, short trips and extended trips. This program extends beyond Silver Center participants but also reaches others in the community that enjoy seeing new places and experiencing new opportunities. In 2008, the Liberty Travelers program offered 37 different trips to a variety of locations, including Copper Canyon and Myrtle Beach, to Branson, Chicago and many locations within Missouri and Kansas. In 2008, 644 participants took advantage of this program, which is a 28% increase from the previous year.

**Liberty Access Transportation** offers reliable, convenient and affordable transportation for older adults. In 2008, Liberty Access provided 6,347 one-way trips to older adults in Liberty, which equates to a total of 28,000 miles. Access to transportation equates to independence for older adults. Our transportation program is essential in facilitating this independence by providing rides to medical/dental appointments, grocery shopping, the Silver Center for congregate meals, socialization and wellness activities, as well as other destinations in Liberty. Of the 6,347 trips, 3,840 (60%) were to the Silver Center, 1,857 (29%) were for medical or grocery store visits and 650 (10%) were used by individuals requiring a wheel chair accessible mode of transportation.

**Meals on Wheels (M.O.W.)** is a special program designed for homebound individuals 60+ years of age who are unable to prepare a meal for themselves. Through a network of local volunteers, a hot nutritious noon meal prepared by Liberty Hospital is delivered to 60 individual's homes. Deliveries are made Monday - Friday, except holidays. While the M.O.W. program is not a city program, it is subsidized by City of Liberty staff. Drivers from Liberty Access pick up the food from the hospital and bring it to the Clay County election office parking lot to be picked up by volunteer drivers. In addition, the secretary/dispatcher for the Senior Services division works with the M.O.W. volunteer coordinator to find drivers for each of the six routes. Approximately 1,000 hours of staff time is dedicated to the M.O.W. program.



# *Senior Services Division*

- The Senior Services division has been working with the Public Relations division to provide information about the division on the City's cable channel. Staff has updated information about the program and included some video clips that promote Meals on Wheels and activities at the Silver Center.
- Additionally, Liberty Travelers has partnered with Collette Vacations to provide extended trips throughout the country.
- At the Liberty Silver Center, we continue to provide a wide range of activities for older adults. These activities include but are not limited to bringing in a live band at least once a month; potlucks; afternoon movies, sing alongs; women's tea; men's breakfast; guest speakers; out to lunch at a variety of restaurants; bingo; card playing; and more.
- In an attempt to cut costs as well as reduce our carbon footprints, the staff at the Silver Center encourages everyone to bring their own glasses to use during lunch. The Mid-America Regional Council provides all eating supplies for the Silver Center but they provide plastic silverware and Styrofoam plates and glasses. None of these items are bio-degradable. With an average of 60 participants per day, that is more than 300 cups and plates used each week. While this is a new concept 20% of participants now bring at least their own cup; some are bringing their own silverware. Staff will continue to promote this concept to encourage greater participation.
- In July, the participants of the Silver Center participated in an extensive survey. While quality of service surveys have been offered annually, this survey included questions about demographics and programming needs and interest communication. This will help staff understand the needs of the seniors and identify new programming opportunities.





Debbie Abernathy, Charles Anderson, Chrissy Birdsell, Dan Bortko, Casey Gaines, Rich Kingman, Paul Miller, Todd Munk, Karen Oswald, Don Reckman, Donna Kay Taylor, Claudea Williams & Pam Young.

The Liberty Community Center opened its doors on February 18, 1992. In September 2003, a 6,000 square-foot expansion project was completed. The Liberty Community Center amenities include a 5,400 square-foot fitness center with walking track, 700 seat performing arts theater, family/youth fitness center, four swimming pools, gymnasium, locker rooms, hot tub, sauna, games, meeting/banquet facilities with seating up to 310, catering kitchen and childcare room.

The Liberty Community Center offers many fitness and traditional programs to the community in addition to annual, summer and daily memberships to the facility. In 2005, the Liberty Community Center implemented a member

reward program, Get MORE, which provides members reduced rates on many of the Parks and Community Center programs and services. In 2008, the Liberty Community Center had 2,424 annual memberships, a 5% increase of 2007; 383 summer passes, a 4% increase of 2007; and 20,577 daily passes, a 14% increase of 2007.





# *Liberty Community Center*

The Liberty Community Center offers four rooms for rent. Staff provides the necessary set up and clean up service for each customer. During 2008, the meeting rooms were utilized 444 for a variety of events and activities. These rooms also host a number of Community Center fitness and recreation programs.

In 2006, the concept of the birthday party was expanded to offer more options. There are three packages that range from a basic package that includes day passes to enter the facility to an ultimate package that provides pizza, soda, cake and goody bags. In 2008, the Community center hosted 23 birthday parties.

Child care services have been offered to Community Center patrons since the facility opened in 1992. Currently, members pay \$1/hr/child and non-members pay \$3/hr/child. In 2008, 7,333 children utilized the area while parents and guardians utilized the fitness area or other programs offered. This was an increase of 35% over 2007.



## Performing Arts Theatre

The Liberty Community Center is home to a 700 seat performing arts theater with an orchestra pit, dressing rooms, fly loft, spot light bays, and full sound and lights. Since opening in 1992, the Performing Arts Theatre (LPAT) has served as the site for many types of events, including children's puppet shows, concerts, musicals, plays, recitals, contests, pageants, youth acting classes, festivals, dance productions, multi-media shows, seminars, lectures, sales presentations, meetings, workshops, films, award ceremonies, weddings and recognitions.



In 2008, the LPAT had more than 2,100 hours of scheduled usage; an average of nearly six hours per day, every day

of the year, representing more than 145 different attractions with more than 65,000 in attendance. The LPAT sponsored two Paul Mesner children's puppet performances, both of which were 95% sold out. The LPAT also sponsored the annual New Musician Showcase, helping to discover new talent like Chamber Music (grand prize winner), Bayley Kate Hartman, The Upright Apes and Ron Richards. The LPAT hosted four Liberty Symphony Orchestra concerts, the U.S. Air Force Band, and dance recitals for 60% of the dance studios north of the river plus an additional four studios south of the river. In addition to rentals, sponsored, co-sponsored, and hosted events, the LPAT also held three weeks of theatrical classes in cooperation with the nationally acclaimed Coterie Children's Theatre.





# Liberty Community Center

## Aquatic Programs

The Liberty Community Center offers a wide range of aquatic and aerobic programs designed for participants of all ages and consist of the following categories: swim lessons, water fitness, land based fitness, SilverSneakers® and specialty camps. Swim lessons are designed to teach water safety skills covering all the important components of swimming for all ages and skill levels.

- **AQUA TOT** - This program is designed for children ages 6 months to 2.5 years and is a water orientation program for both tots and their parents. During 2008, 18 sessions of Aqua Tot were offered with a maximum of eight participants per class. Of the 144 openings, 143 participants registered.
- **PARENT TOT** - This program is designed for children ages 2.5 to 5 years and is designed for the child who is ready to swim, yet still requires parental assistance. During 2008, 44 sessions of Parent Tot were offered with a maximum of seven participants per class. Of the 308 openings, 287 participants were registered.
- **NOVICE** - This program is a participant's first swim class without parental assistance. Participants must be at least 4.8 years of age. During 2008, 76 Novice classes were offered with a maximum of six participants per class. Of the 456 openings, 445 participants were registered.
- **ADVANCED NOVICE** - This program is designed for participants who know the basics of swimming, but would like to learn more advanced swimming skills. Participants must be at least 6 years old. Skills refined during this program include crawl stroke with rhythmic breathing, elementary backstroke, regular backstroke, breast stroke, treading water, diving and endurance training. During 2008, 40 sessions of Advanced Novice were offered with a maximum of eight participants per class. Of the 320 openings, 305 participants were registered.
- **INTERMEDIATE** - This program is designed for participants who have a solid understanding of the basic fundamentals of swimming and want to increase stroke refinement and endurance training. Participants must be at least 8 years old. During 2008, 25 sessions of Intermediate were offered with a maximum of eight participants per class. Of the 200 openings, 157 participants were registered.



- **DEVELOPMENTAL STROKE** - This program is designed for participants who are considering a swim team, yet need further refinement before taking the plunge. Participants must be at least 8 years old. During 2008, nine sessions of Developmental Stroke were offered with a maximum of eight participants per class. Of the 72 openings, 66 participants were registered.

# *Liberty Community Center*

- **PRIVATE/SEMI PRIVATE LESSONS** - This program is designed for participants who wish to participate in one-on-one instruction to better serve their swimming needs. Participants range in age from 4 to senior citizens.
- **LIBERTY COMMUNITY CENTER SWIM TEAM** - The Liberty Storm Swim Team is a member of the Metro League, a developmental league that stresses fundamentals, good sportsmanship and fun. The Liberty Storm Swim Team is the ultimate step in skill progression. Members of the league consist of the Gladstone Gators, the Lee's Summit Stingrays, and the Liberty Storm. Participants range from age 5 to 18. This program is considered a "feeder" program for the Liberty High School swim team. During 2008, 160 participants were registered for the team.
- **LIBERTY COMMUNITY SWIM TEAM STROKE CLINIC** - The swim team stroke clinic is held for all swimmers interested in refining their swimming abilities prior to swim season. Participants are at least 5 years old. During 2008, 64 participants were registered in Stroke Clinic.
- **GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PRE-SEASON TRAINING** - New in 2008, Pre-Season Training is a specialty program offered to participants age 14 and older who are interested in a pre-season conditioning program that focuses on strength training drills, endurance building and streamlining. During 2008, 39 participants were registered in Pre-Season Training.
- **LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION** - The Liberty Community Center offers Ellis & Associates, Inc. Lifeguard Certification program. This program is taught in cooperation with Oceans of Fun. Participants are 15 and older. During 2008, 65 participants registered Lifeguard Certification classes.



# *Liberty Community Center*

- **WATER FITNESS** - These programs are designed for adult participants of all abilities. Classes consist of traditional water aerobics, water arthritis and specialty classes that concentrate on deep water exercises and strong cardiovascular conditioning.
- **WATER AEROBICS** - Water Aerobic classes serve a variety of ages ranging from young adults to senior citizens. Water Aerobics provides participants the ability to obtain a strong cardiovascular workout in an aquatic environment, while exercising numerous muscles simultaneously with minimal to no pressure or stress on an individual's shins, joints and knees. In 2008, three separate water aerobic classes were offered per week over seven sessions. There were a total of 700 possible registrations available with a total of 383 registered.
- **WATER ARTHRITIS** - (Water Arthritis, Aqua Arthritis and Aqua Arthritis Plus) Water Arthritis classes serve senior citizens ranging from early 60 to our oldest participant who is 90 years old. A variety of exercises emphasize joint wellness, range of motion, increased flexibility, and preventative muscle loss. In 2008, three separate Water Arthritis Classes were offered per week over seven sessions. There were a total of 490 possible registrations with a total of 440 registered.
- **EVENING WATER AEROBICS FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED** - This program is targeted towards our developmentally challenged participants who may not be capable of participating in a traditional fitness program, yet function on a high level. Program format consists of simple stretching, minor calisthenics and simple exercises that sometimes are performed to childhood nursery rhymes and recess activities. In 2008, seven sessions were offered with 210 possible registrations. Of the 210 openings, 50 were filled.
- **SPECIALTY WATER AEROBICS** - (Aqua Blast, Aqua Blast Plus, Aquacize, H2O, Joggercize and Water Works) Similar to traditional water aerobics, Specialty Water Aerobic classes consist of a warm up, stretching, cardiovascular conditioning, and a cool down. In 2008, seven separate water aerobic classes were offered per week over seven sessions. There were a total of 1,400 possible registrations available with a total of 648 registered.





# Liberty Community Center

## Aerobics and Special Events

Land based fitness programs are designed for adult participants of all abilities. Classes consist of traditional step aerobics, power yoga & pilates, kickbox, bootcamp, & Zumba. Each program is unique to its own instructor, however, program format still follows industry definition. With each program, participants are lead through various class exercises which focus on specific targeted areas. Classes begin with a warm up, stretching, class specifics for cardiovascular conditioning, and a cool down.



- **TRADITIONAL STEP AEROBICS** - (Body Blast, Burn Baby Burn, Cardio Combo, Core Training, Step & Pump, & Turbo Tone) Traditional Step Aerobics is the foundation of aerobic fitness classes. Exercise routines are choreographed to music and performed by an instructor who leads participants through their class. In 2008, seven separate aerobic fitness classes were offered per week over seven sessions per year. There were a total of 1,680 possible registrations available with a total of 966 registered.

- **POWER YOGA & PILATES** - In Power Yoga and Pilates programs, specific muscle isolation is targeted through ballet-based exercise movements. These exercises are designed to strengthen, sculpt, and lengthen muscles. Participants develop a stronger core, increase flexibility and muscle elasticity, prevent muscle loss, and improve range of motion. In 2008, there were a total of 840 possible registrations available with a total of 230 registered.



- **KICKBOXING** - Kickboxing provides participants with an intense cardiovascular workout. This style of programming is geared for intermediate to advanced level participants. In 2008, there were a total of 460 possible registrations available with a total of 241 registered.



- **BOOT CAMP** - Boot Camp is a relatively new style of exercise program that incorporates military style training with civilian participants. Class instruction utilizes both the gymnasium and outdoor areas to challenge participants during periods of nice weather. In 2008, there were a total of 280 possible registrations available with a total of 278 registered.

- **ZUMBA** - Zumba is currently considered the hottest craze in exercise. Zumba uses Latin-based music and rhythm to guide participants through simple dance moves while creating an intense cardiovascular conditioning routine. Participants perform dance moves which focus on upper/mid/lower body muscles. In 2008, there were a total of 280 possible registrations available with a total of 275 registered.



# *Liberty Community Center*

- **ADULT FITNESS** - small-group fitness classes offered an array of opportunities for individuals who were looking for an affordable means to get fit in a small-group setting. Pregnancy, beginner, advanced, boot camp specialty classes allowed participants to choose a class that best fits their styles, goals and experiences. Instructors are nationally certified in personal training with varying areas of expertise.
- **SILVERSNEAKERS®** - SilverSneakers is a joint venture program with Humana Health Care and the Liberty Community Center. The SilverSneakers program is the nation's leading exercise program designed exclusively for older adults. SilverSneakers provides a free exercise program to its members that is designed exclusively by Humana and presented by a SilverSneakers trained fitness instructor. This program is designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activities for daily living skills. During 2008, 3,358 participants attended, a 52% increase over 2007.
- **SPECIALTY CAMPS** - Splash Camp is a supervised youth program held during the Liberty School District winter vacation. Youth participate in activities including swimming, movies, games, and gym sports. During 2008, there were a total of 200 available spaces with a total of 132 registered.
- **HAWAIIAN LUAU AND SWIM PARTY** - In 2000, the Liberty Community Center planned the first Hawaiian Luau and Swim Party for annual and summer members. Hot dogs, chips, pop and cookies along with musical entertainment, balloonists, and face painting were provided at no charge. Over the years we've also added caricature artists. Because of its popularity, the luau has become an annual summer event with an average attendance of 450.





# Liberty Community Center

- **ACTIVE KIDS' DAY CAMP** - This day camp was offered to youth in grades 1- 6. Since its inception in 2006, the camp has become a popular choice for active kids during the summer. Average enrollment is 50-60 participants per day.
- **DOG OBEDIENCE CLASS** - This class, one of our most stable classes throughout the years, creates a positive experience for the dog and owner. Enrollment numbers per session average six for the beginner class and four for the advanced class.
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (Mad Science, Youth Tech)** - The Liberty Community Center contracted with two youth educational vendors to offer various science and computer skills classes. Mad Science had a Jr. Engineer camp for ages 6-12. Campers learned how to build a geodesic dome, catapults, bridges, and rockets. Youth Tech, Inc., offered four computer classes for youth ages 10-17 that included animation, web design, and video game design skills.



## YOUTH FITNESS

- **STRETCH N' GROW** – This youth fitness class has grown in popularity at the Liberty Community Center. The instructor taught 2-5 year olds the basics of exercise including warm-up, endurance, muscle movement and awareness, stretching and cool-down.
- **YOUTH FITNESS CLASS** - This class offered participants ages 7-14 the next step in fitness training beyond the first Family Fitness Center orientation. The instructor taught aerobic conditioning, resistance training, agility and balance training through a variety of games, exercises and drills. Sessions were scheduled twice a week for three weeks and often reached maximum enrollment.
- **YOUTH FITNESS CLASS (Specialty Groups)** - Specialty youth fitness classes were scheduled for soccer, Boy Scout groups and home school groups. In these classes the instructor(s) taught skills that were specific to the participants sport or activity. Depending upon their needs, classes were scheduled for single or for multiple sessions.





# *Liberty Community Center*

- **GOLF LESSON PROGRAM** - Adult and youth golf lessons have been offered in cooperation with Clay Crest Golf Club. The classes, which have approximately 50 participants, were scheduled for five weeks with sessions running April through October. The instructor taught beginner level skills such as proper grip, stance, swing mechanics, club selection, putting, etiquette and rules. This program is traditionally popular with family-type enrollments such as father/son, mother/daughter, etc.
- **GYMNASTIC/TUMBLING PROGRAM** - This class offered three different skill levels of instruction through the USA Gymnastics certified-instructor. The first level, Tumbling for Tots-First Time for ages 3 and 4, focused on improving balance, flexibility and coordination while teaching basic tumbling skills. The second level, Tumbling for Tots – Step Up for ages 3 and 4 takes the skill instruction to the next level. In the third level class, Jump Start Gymnastics, participants used equipment such as the balance beam and learned advanced floor exercise skills. This program has been so popular that the instructor has had to offer additional program times to accommodate waiting list participants.
- **PERSONAL TRAINING** - The Liberty Community Center has offered personal training through nationally certified personal trainers. Currently, the Community Center contracts with eight trainers with four on average as active trainers. Most of the active trainers offer different rates for different levels of instruction and different group sizes. Personal training instruction gives individualized instruction and coaching designed specified for the participants goals and experience level.
- **TAP & BALLET PROGRAM** - In this program, children 3 to 6 years of age develop a sense of rhythm and coordination in two different classes for six week sessions.
- **TENNIS LESSON PROGRAM** - This spring/summer program has evolved into a very popular beginner/intermediate/advanced level program. Because of the popularity of the classes, additional classes have been offered. The lessons offer a fun and positive environment with an emphasis on fundamentals. Each player is placed on a “team” to learn team spirit while developing tennis skills. Sessions are six weeks with two classes per week.
- **YOUNG CHAMPIONS PROGRAM** - Young Champions, for youth ages 4 - 16 years old offers two different classes through the Liberty Community Center. The Karate program was initially offered only on Tuesday evenings, and however because it has been so popular another karate program was started on Monday evenings specifically for parents and children. The second program, Pom & Cheer, a cheerleading class, is held on Tuesdays at Manor Hill Elementary School. Both the Karate and Pom & Cheer programs are held throughout the year and participants are graded throughout the programs for skill levels.





# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division***



**Isaiah Bragg, Chris Carnes, Joe Lucas, Derek Mayden, B.J. Staab and Nate Williams**

The Sports Complex / Sports Division offers a wide variety of sports leagues and tournaments for recreational and competitive levels. Programs included are baseball, soccer, basketball, football and volleyball. These programs are offered to pre-school aged kids through senior adults. This division also hosts many major state, regional and national events such as baseball, soccer and softball tournaments.

Programs are offered at various sites throughout Liberty including City Park, Bennett Park, Stocksdales Park, Westboro – Canterbury Park and the Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. This division also utilizes many of the Liberty Public School facility host events. Games are played at the best facilities available throughout Liberty while the majority of outdoor events are played at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex.

Fountain Bluff Sports Complex opened in June 2002 and was financed by the Liberty 2000 and Liberty 2010 Capital Improvements program. This multi-million dollar facility offers various sporting events on the 146 acre site.

Fountain Bluff Sports Complex offers various amenities not seen in most facilities. The site has eight ponds that are used for storm water control, irrigation of the fields and public fishing opportunities while also providing aesthetic beauty to the park in the form of lighted fountains. The complex provides more than two miles of walking/jogging trails to the public as well as playgrounds and concession stands. It also provides nine state-of-the-art baseball/softball fields with scoreboards and lights, and six (soccer/ football) fields with scoreboards outfitted with lights. The complex currently has 65 acres of undeveloped space for future completion of the facility's master plan.

# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division***

## **2008 BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS - HOSTED BY FOUNTAIN BLUFF**

- United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA) Ice Breaker youth baseball tournament for 10-13 year olds was held April 4 - 6 with 25 teams.
- USSSA Spring Shootout youth baseball tournament was scheduled for April 11-13. This tournament had 12 teams entered, however it was not played due to the cold weather.
- USSSA NIT Golden Glove Invitational youth baseball tournament for 8-14 year olds was held April 25-27 with 21 teams. The winners of this tournament received direct berths to the USSSA World Series.
- USSSA Scott McGinnis Memorial Diamond Classic youth baseball tournament for 10-14 year olds was held on May 2-4 with 29 teams.
- USSSA American Past-time Classic youth baseball tournament for 9-16 year olds was held May 16-18 with 66 teams.
- USSSA NIT Midwest Showdown youth baseball tournament for 9-16 year olds was held June 6-8 with 63 teams. The winners of this tournament received direct berths to the USSSA World Series.
- USSSA Summer Slam youth baseball tournament for 8-16 year olds was held June 13-15 with 54 teams.
- USSSA State Tournament youth baseball tournament held June 26-29 with two separate divisions: Missouri 14 & Under AAA Division and Missouri/Kansas 14 & Under Major Division this tournament brought 33 teams to the area tournament.
- USSSA 13 & Under AAA World Series youth baseball tournament was held July 13-20 with 54 teams from 14 different states. Opening Ceremonies were held at Kaufman Stadium including first pitch and honorary lineup with the Kansas City Royals. Teams also were treated to a Royals clinic for players and coaches.
- USSSA Pepsi Hardball Classic youth baseball tournament for 9-16 year olds was held August 30-31 with 34 teams.





# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division***

## **BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS – RENTALS AT FOUNTAIN BLUFF**

- United States Sports Specialty Association (USSSA) Swingbuilder Slugfest youth baseball tournament was held on April 18-20 with 31 teams.
- USSSA Memorial Day Super NIT - youth baseball tournament was held May 23-26 with 71 teams from nine states. Winners received automatic berths to the Elite 16 World Series in Orlando, FL.
- USSSA KC Classic youth baseball tournament was held May 30-June 1 with 20 teams.
- USSSA Summer Classic youth baseball tournament was held June 20-22 with 43 teams.

## **ADULT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS - HOSTED BY FOUNTAIN BLUFF**

- American Softball Association (ASA) Jesse James Classic adult softball tournament was held on August 16. A total of eight teams participated.

## **ADULT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS – RENTALS AT FOUNTAIN BLUFF**

- National Softball Association (NSA) Midnight Adult Softball Tournament started at midnight on July 5 and continued until the morning of July 6 with 14 teams.
- NSA Men's D State Championship Adult Softball Tournament was held July 26-27 with 29 teams from across Missouri.
- Isenhower Classic Men's Senior Softball Tournament was held July 10-13 with 28 teams.
- NSA Turkey Adult Softball Tournament was held on November 22 with 36 teams.

## **ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

- Spring Adult Softball League - 62 teams participated. 16 Coed teams and 46 Men's teams.
- Summer Adult Softball League - 77 teams participated. 21 Coed teams and 56 Men's teams.
- Fall Adult Softball League - 63 teams participated. 23 Coed teams and 40 Men's teams.
- Fall Adult Softball League Session II - 10 men's teams participated.

## **YOUTH COMPETITIVE BASEBALL LEAGUES**

- Spring/Summer Baseball League - 33 teams with players 9-16 years of age.
- Fall Baseball League - 23 teams with players 9-14 years of age.

## **MOTHERS DAY SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

- This competitive soccer tournament with KC Select was offered on Mother's Day weekend. There were 95 boys and girls soccer teams from across the United States that played in the tournament May 9-11. The tournament hosted teams in age divisions from U6 to U15, and utilized nine different soccer fields.



# Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division

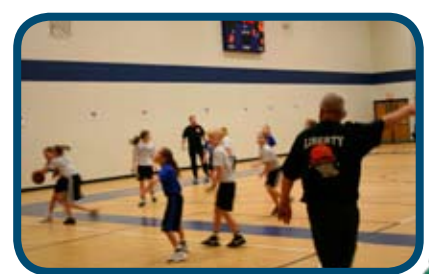
## YOUTH RECREATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMS

- **Spring Youth Parks and Recreation Soccer** - This youth coed league had 446 individual registrations for ages 5 through 14 years old. There were 45 teams for five different age groups. Each team played an eight game season, with all games played at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. Each child received a uniform and a participation trophy .



- **Fall Youth Parks and Recreation Soccer** - This youth league, which offered both boys and girls divisions, had 478 individual registrations for ages 5 through 14 years old. There were 49 teams for five different age groups. Each team played an eight game season, with all games being played at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. Each child received a uniform and a participation trophy.

- **Winter Youth Recreation Basketball** - Offered November through March each year, a total of 106 teams and 1,014 kids in kindergarten through 8th grade participated in 2008. Games and practices were held in Liberty School District gymnasiums. This program offered coed and kindergarten girls' divisions and a boys division.
- **Youth Flag Football** - 36 teams competed this season with 379 1st -6th boys and girls. Games were held September-November at Stocksdale Park.
- **Youth Winter Volleyball Fundamentals Class** had 27 participants. This program is offered to boys and girls ages 5-13 years old. It was open to boys and girls. Classes were held January-March at South Valley Junior High.
- **Youth Fall Volleyball Fundamentals Class** - Offered Monday and Tuesday evenings at South Valley Junior High, the class ran September-November. There were 64 boys and girls ages 5-13 that participated.
- **Recreation Baseball and Softball Program** - Offered March through early July, 74 teams and 922 boys and girls participated in the **recreation league** with games held at Bennett Park, Liberty Middle School, South Valley Junior High, Franklin Elementary and City Park. The **Intro Competitive league** had 38 teams with 476 kids participating. Games were held at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. Champions for the Intro Competitive League were determined by the standings at the end of the season



# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division***

## **YOUTH COMPETITIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS**

- ***Spring Youth Soccer*** - The youth league was offered in the spring to boys and girls with the help of KC Select four teams signed up and played their home games at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. The rest of the league games were played at various facilities around the metropolitan area against other club teams.



- ***Youth Spring Competitive Basketball League*** - This spring league, with both boys and girls divisions, was played March - May and had 15 teams. Games were played at schools in the Liberty School District. The league attracted teams from all over the northland area, making it much more competitive for all teams. The league contained teams from 5th grade through 8th grade.

- ***Youth Fall Competitive Basketball League*** - This league, with boys and girls divisions, offered games September - November. The five teams played their games at schools in the Liberty School District. Teams from all over the northland area participated making it a much more competitive league for all teams. The league contained teams from 7th grade through 8th grade.

- ***Youth Winter Competitive Basketball League*** - This winter league offered both boys and girls divisions January - March with 65 teams. The games were played at schools in the Liberty School District. Teams from all over the northland area, participated making it a much more competitive league for all teams. The league contained teams from 3rd grade through 8th grade.



## **PRE-SCHOOL RECREATIONAL SPORTS PROGRAMS**



- ***Bitty Soccer Program*** - This coed program offered three sessions in both the spring and in the fall sessions. Over these six sessions, 256 children learned basic fundamentals of soccer. The program was located on the back soccer field at the Liberty Middle School. Each child receive a t-shirt and participation trophy.

- ***Bitty Basketball Program*** - This coed program offered three sessions in the winter season. Over all sessions, 118 children learned the basic fundamentals of basketball. The program was located in the Liberty Community Center gym. Each child received a t-shirt and participation trophy.



- ***Tiny Tot T-Ball Program*** - This coed program offered three sessions in the summer season. Over these three sessions, 177 children learned the basic fundamentals of baseball. The program was located at Stocksdale Park. Each child received a t-shirt and participation trophy.



# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex & Sports Division***

## **ADULT SPORTS PROGRAMS**

- **Adult Soccer League** - Through the summer months, this group of 15 men's teams rents the soccer complex and plays a soccer league every Sunday afternoon and evening.
- **Missouri Mustangs Semi-Pro Football League** - The semi-pro men's football team, *Missouri Mustangs*, played their six home games at Fountain Bluff for the 2008 season. The season ran from March - June.
- **Men's Spring/Fall Flag Football Leagues** - six teams participated, each team played a 10 game season. Some of the teams also played in local tournaments around Kansas City area. The spring leagues play April to May and the fall leagues play September - October.
- **Men's Competitive Basketball League** - This men's competitive basketball league played at the Liberty Junior High January - March. There were 25 teams in the league.
- **Winter Adult Volleyball** - Offered January - March. The league had 13 women's teams and 16 coed teams. Games were held on courts in the Liberty Middle School Gymnasium.
- **Spring Adult Volleyball** - There were 12 women's teams and 11 coed teams that participated in this league, which played April - June at the Liberty Middle School Gymnasium.
- **Coed Adult Sand Volleyball** - Nine teams played in this July - August league. Games were played at the Liberty Community Center sand volleyball court. League champions are determined by end of the season standings.
- **Adult Recreation Basketball** - Three sessions were offered in 2008 with games held at Liberty Junior High. The January - May session had 23 participants. May - September had 22 participants. September - January had 18 participants.
- **Fall Adult Volleyball** - 12 coed teams and 12 women's teams played weekly September - November. Matches were held at the Liberty Middle School.



# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex***

## ***Maintenance Division***

Fountain Bluff maintenance staff consists of one crew chief, two grounds keepers and 11 seasonal staff. The staff is in charge of the overall care of the 146 acre park, which consists of six soccer fields, eight baseball/softball fields, one high school regulation baseball field with a grass infield, and an eight acre practice area that has four baseball/softball fields. Four seasonal staff members perform daily maintenance of the park while the other seasonal workers are enlisted as field staff during tournaments and leagues. Seasonal staff is rotated during the week between field maintenance and field event staff.

**Baseball/Softball Fields** - Maintenance of the complex's baseball/softball fields, includes repair and dragging of infield, watering infields, moving mounds and bases, chalking fields, cleaning restrooms and picking up trash including parking lots.

**Soccer Complex** - Maintenance staff picks up trash, sets up fields to their appropriate dimensions for soccer and/or flag football programs, paints boundary lines, moves goals and cleans the restrooms.

**Mowing** - Staff mows 24 acres of athletic fields with a Fairway reel mower two to three times per week depending on the growth rate of the grass. It takes 30 hours per week to maintain the mowing schedule. Staff also mows the common areas in each complex once per week as well.

**Ponds** - The complex's eight ponds serve multiple purposes. They collect storm water runoff and serve as the main water source for the complex's irrigation system in conjunction with the in-ground well that helps maintain the water level of the ponds. Some ponds have fountains to help prevent algae. Maintenance on the ponds include cutting vegetation once per year or as needed, checking the fountains, and picking up trash around the ponds once per week or as needed.

**Landscape Beds and Parking Lot Islands** - Staff sprays landscape beds and parking lot islands for weeds once a month and adds mulch once per year or as needed.



# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex***

## ***Maintenance Division***

***Athletic fields turf*** - Athletic fields consist primarily of bluegrass. Maintenance on the athletic turf include fertilization, aerating, seeding and irrigating. Staff uses the Integrated Pest Management (I.P.M.) method to control pests that may appear during the course of the year. With I.P.M. staff applies a pesticide when a problem exists. Aeration of the fields occurs two or more times a year depending on the play a field may receive. Seeding is done once a year, with spot seeding once per month during the growing season, mainly in the middle of the soccer fields and goal mouths. For irrigation two twin turbine pumps pull water from the ponds to irrigate the fields. There are 240 irrigation heads on the soccer fields and 350 on the baseball fields. The irrigation, along with the turf itself, is checked for any problems at least once per week dependant upon seasonal conditions.

***Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance*** - The division has implemented a preventative maintenance program for all vehicles and equipment to ensure long-term use and efficiency. Park employees inspect, check fluid levels, and grease equipment each day. Records are taken on repairs made to the equipment and hours or mileage is documented to make sure maintenance needs are performed within the recommended maintenance interval.

***Seasonal Field Supervisors Duties*** - The seasonal field supervisors are responsible for setting out scoreboard controllers, providing teams with water and cups and cleaning the bathrooms at least every two hours and removing trash from the area. There is usually one field supervisor in the 4-plex and one in the 5-plex to help keep the complexes clean. Field supervisors also assist the concessions by getting supplies from storage as needed.

***Field Maintenance Staff During a Tournament*** - A supervisor and two seasonal maintenance staff work each tournament. Duties consist of dragging and repairing fields after the games are over and setting the fields for the next day's first games. Staff also picks up trash and provides a thorough cleaning of the restrooms. If a tournament receives rain, the grounds keepers in charge call in additional seasonal and full-time staff to prepare fields for play. During national tournaments, maintenance staff is on hand one hour prior to the first pitch until the end. After each game fields are drug, watered and relined for the next game. The five-plex and four-plex have a full time supervisor and two seasonal who work an extended day to leave these events successful and fun for the teams.

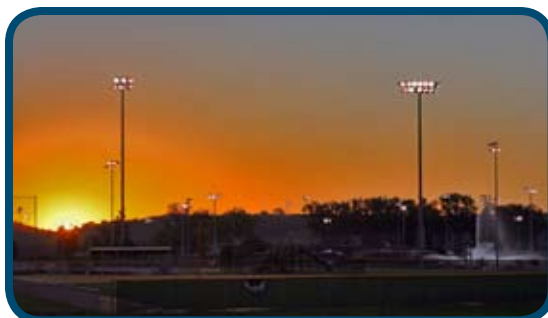




# ***Fountain Bluff Sports Complex***

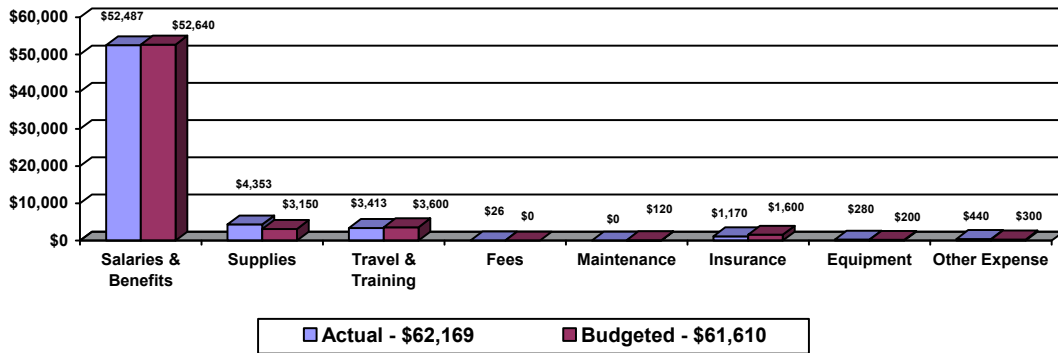
## ***Maintenance Division***

- **February 2008** - To help level low spots and even the playing surface, eight baseball fields each received 40 tons of infield material.  
  
Staff replaced the 4-plex's 8-foot tall chain link fence that was worn.  
  
Fountain Bluff maintenance worked with the Parks Maintenance Division to install shade structures around six fields.
- **March 2008** - Fountain Bluff maintenance staff began work on the practice fields by leveling out the new infield and installed backstops.
- **April 2008** - Staff began renovating field #9 by moving the field 10 feet farther from the backstop. Removed all of the infield sod and utilized it in other parts of the facility. Added four inches of sand and tilled in the soil. The area was then leveled and bentgrass seed was planted.
- **July 2008** - Staff cleaned the entire park and set up for the ***Liberty4thFest*** held at Fountain Bluff. Staff also assisted with other duties to help with the festival. Staff set up for the National Tournament, which was held from July 14-20, by setting out 25 American flags that lined the entry ways, cleaning facility and preparing fields.
- **October 2008** - The staff repaired the 8-foot tall privacy fence that was damaged by strong winds. The maintenance staff also started to fix the fence on the backstops that was bowing out from the balls striking the fence. Clay was brought in to top off field #9 and two bullpens were added for teams to warm up their pitchers.

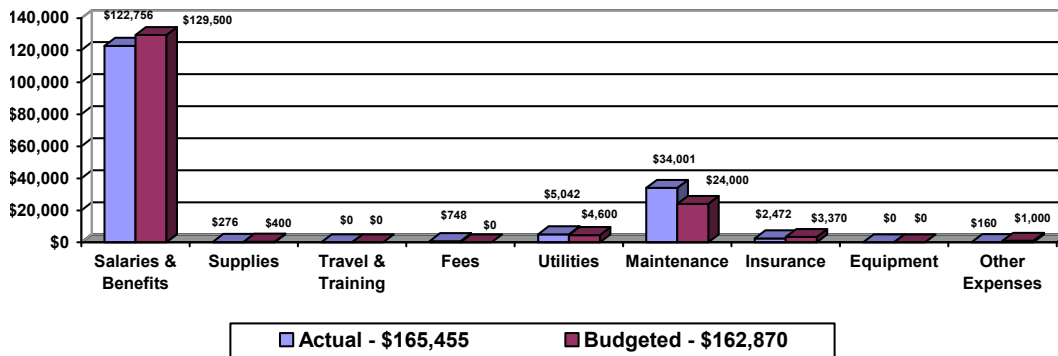


# Parks and Recreation Budget

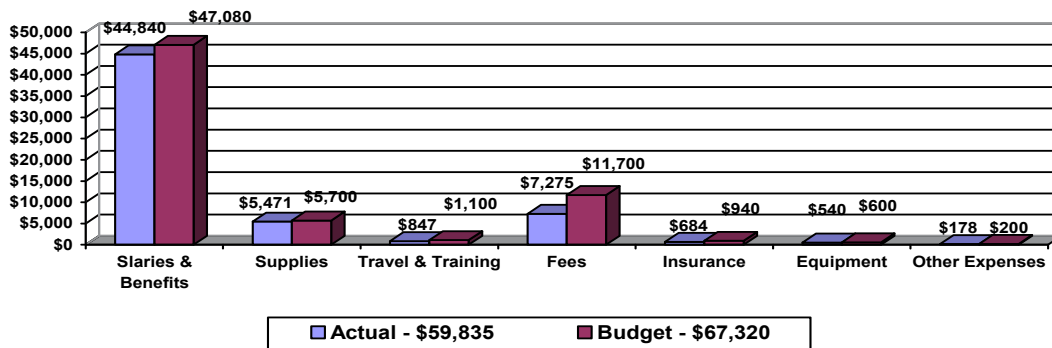
## 2008 Aging Services Expenditures



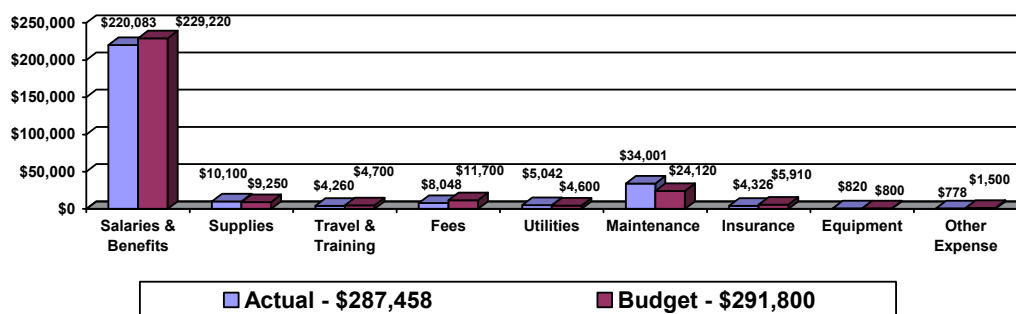
## 2008 Senior Bus Services Expenditures



## 2008 Senior Silver Center Expenditures

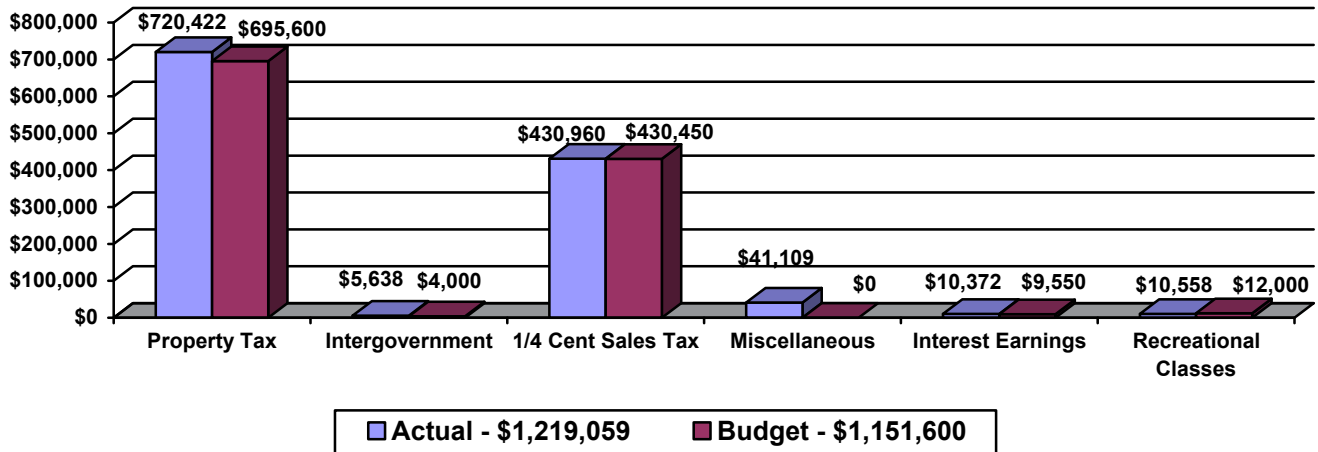


## 2008 Total Aging Services Division Expenditures

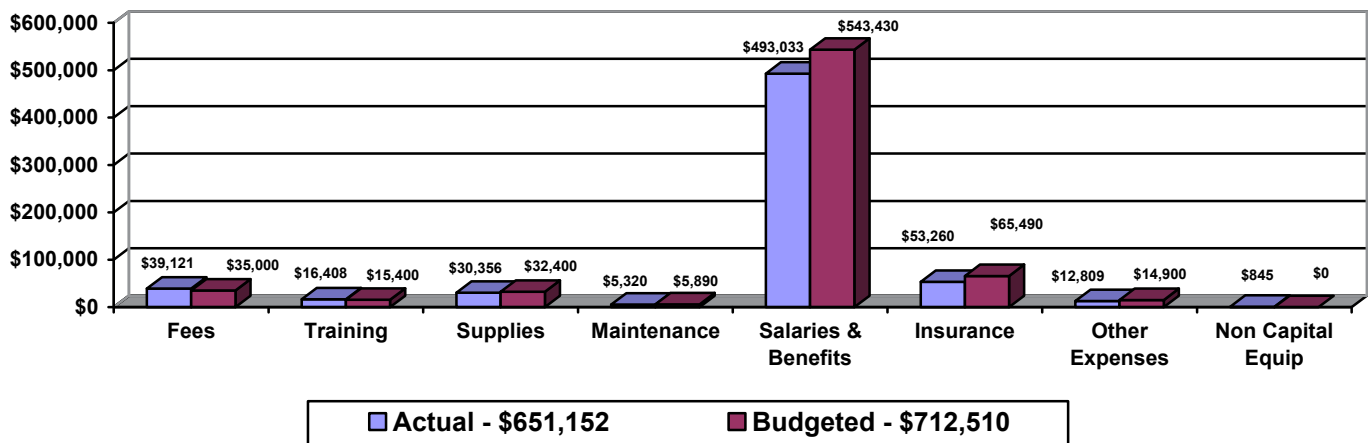


# Parks and Recreation Budget

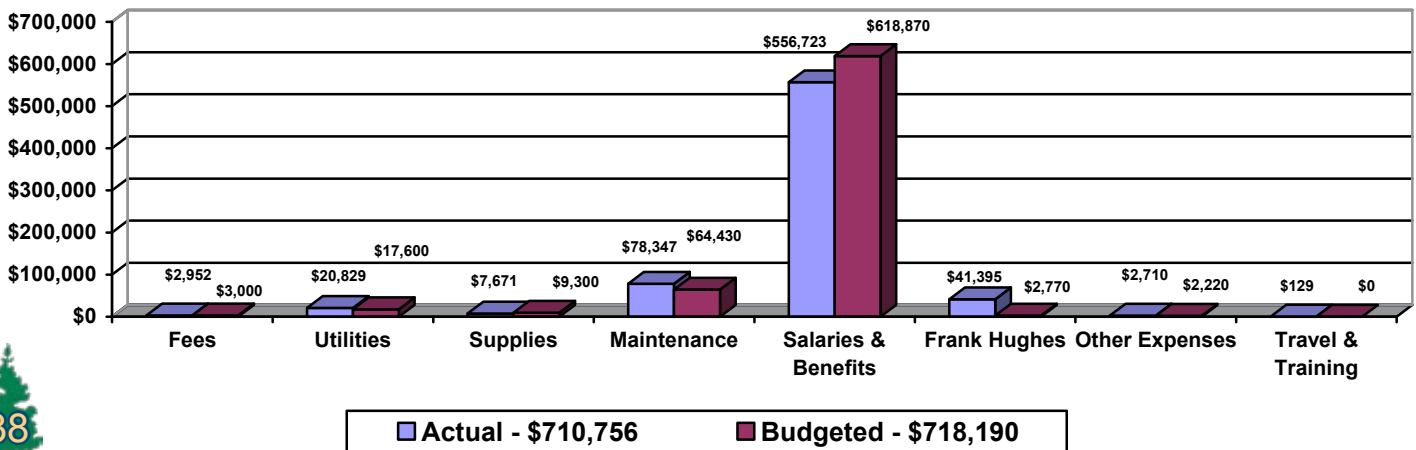
## 2008 Administration / Maintenance Revenues



## 2008 Administration Expenditures



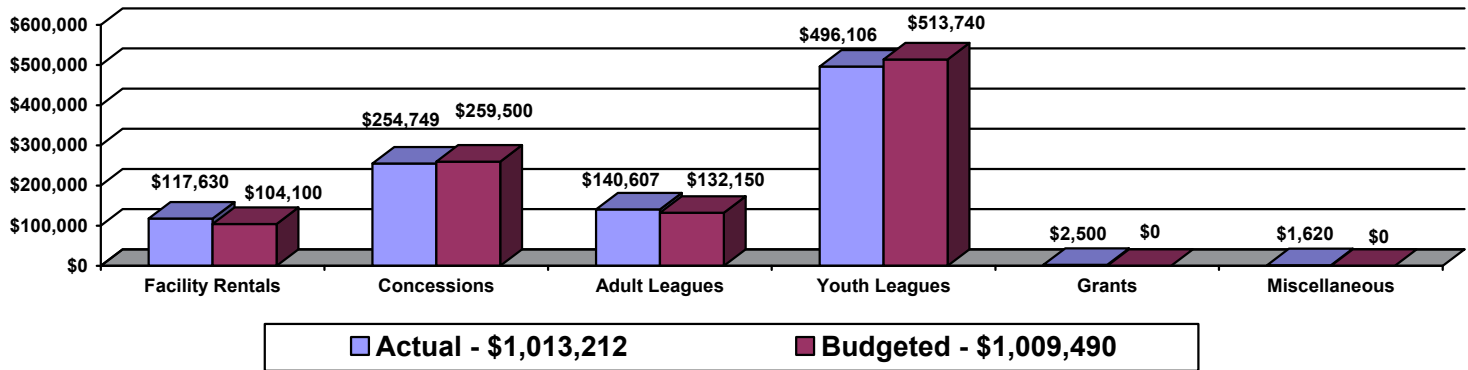
## 2008 Park Maintenance Expenditures



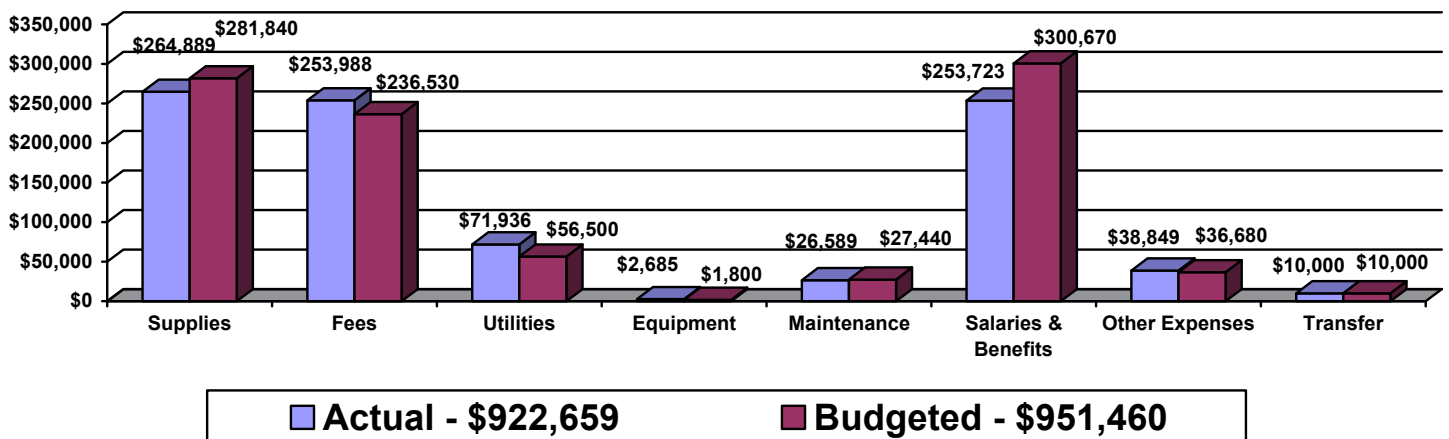


# Parks and Recreation Budget

## 2008 Sports Complex / Sports Programs Revenue

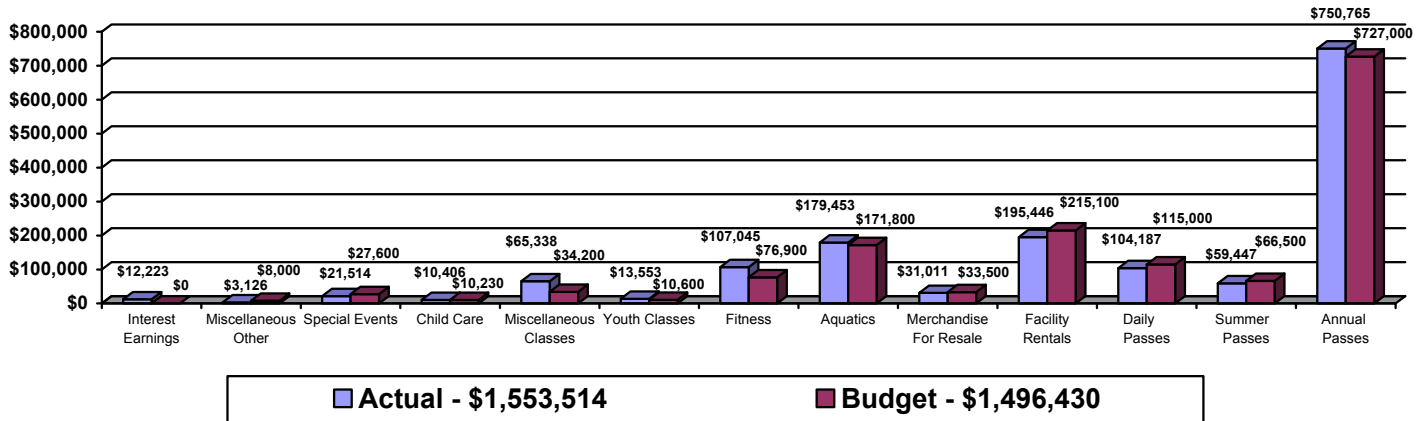


## 2008 Sports Complex / Sports Programs Expenditures

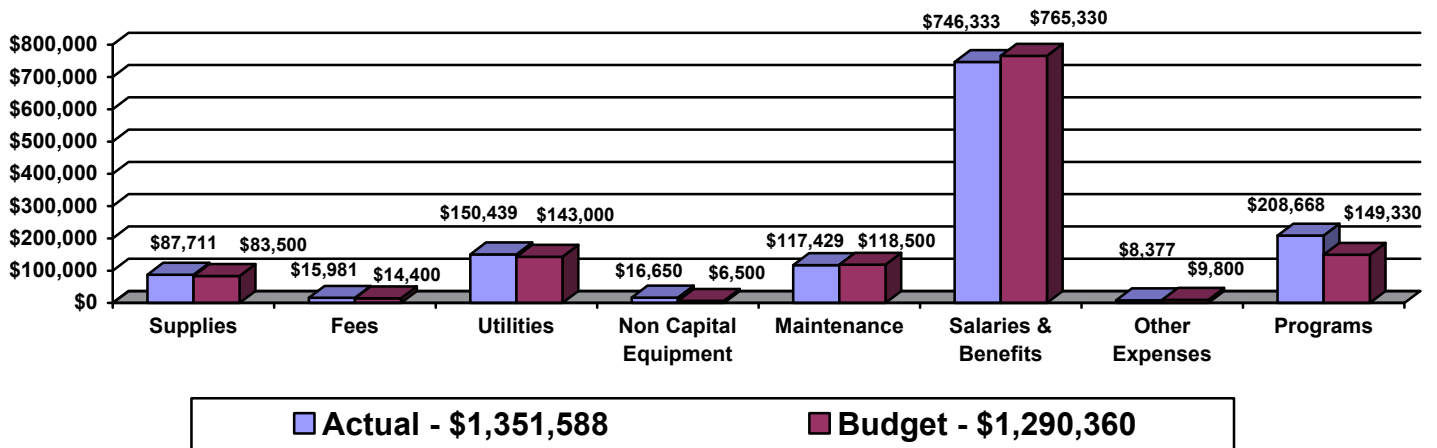


# Parks and Recreation Budget

## 2008 Community Center Revenues

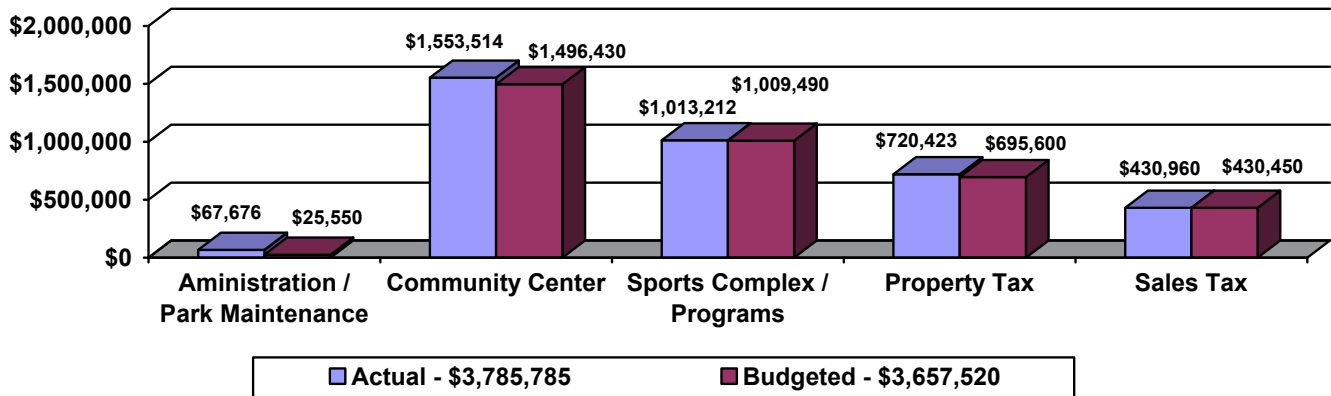


## 2008 Community Center Expenditures

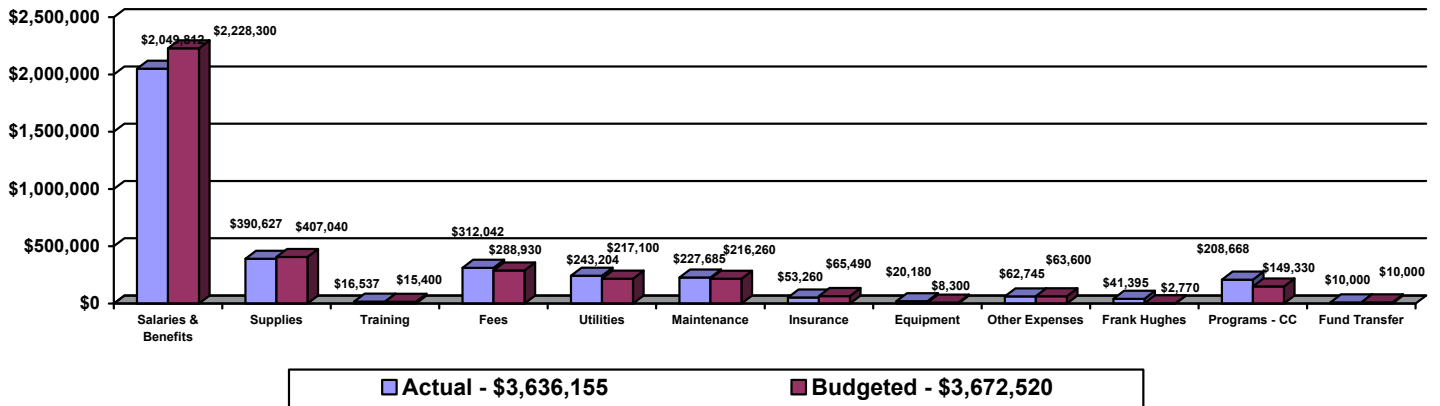


# Parks and Recreation Budget

## 2008 Parks and Recreation Revenue Total Budget



## 2008 Parks and Recreation Expenditure Total Budget





# *Parks and Recreation*

## *2009 Budget Goals*

### **Administration Division**

The administrative division will maintain a balanced budget with the combined budget reporting process by monitoring monthly budget reports as compared to previous year's success:

- Investigate and document variance's of 5% or greater

The Park Board and Special Interest Groups are comprised of volunteers that are Mayor appointed. The staff will strive to have a quorum represented at 80% of meetings scheduled throughout the year.

- Staff will contact each member of the board and special interest group at least FOUR days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- If a group does not meet for two consecutive months an alternate date will be sought to have the group meet.
- Packet information will be maintained when a quorum is acquired.

Staff will increase enrollment of community members to the Rec News Flash, an e-mail newsletter that is sent twice per month with department updates and notices, by 20% for the year.

- Staff will advertise the Rec News Flash in each of the three program brochures that are published annually.
- Information will be included on program registration forms, event fliers, and advertisements on how to receive the e-newsletter.
- Staff will monitor enrollment on a monthly basis.

*“Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading. I will rather say more necessary, because health is worth more than learning.” Thomas Jefferson*

# ***Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget Goals***

## **Parks Maintenance Division**

Provide the necessary building maintenance and repair to ensure safe, sustainable structures for city and public use in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Continue to inspect, document and repair all park buildings, structures and facilities on a monthly basis to ensure we are providing employees a safe place to work and citizens with amenities that are in working order.

Provide a cost-effective equipment and vehicle maintenance service program that assists in extending the life of equipment.

- Sustain a daily equipment and vehicle service program; recording preventative maintenance actions and repairs performed.

Provide education and resources to the community interest groups such as Tree Board and Tree Liberty at least three times per year.

- Work with Tree Liberty and Tree Board to bring awareness to the positive impact of street trees.
- Provide community education on trees with Tree Liberty and Tree Board.

Monitor equipment and building structure expenses on a monthly basis to maintain a balanced budget.

- Track expenses on a weekly basis, utilizing an Excel Worksheet to monitor exact expenses associated to specific pieces of equipment.
- Provide daily work logs for employees.

Provide daily maintenance and repairs on the sprayground from the middle of May - October.

- Perform the needed maintenance on both spray grounds daily.
- Diaphragm replacement will be documented when part is ordered. Any replacement of diaphragms will be completed within seven working days of ordering part.
- Inspect, adjust, and document the chlorine and muriatic acid levels twice daily to ensure the water quality is at a safe level for public use.

Provide monthly inspections on the skate park and playgrounds to ensure safe usage for the public.

- Inspect all nuts, bolts, screws and any other hardware on all skate park ramps and playgrounds monthly.
- Document the inspections, maintenance and repairs that are needed.
- Document the depth of mulch on all playgrounds. Adding mulch when the depth drops below the permanent mulch line on all the playground poles.

# ***Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget Goals***

## **Parks Maintenance Division cont.....**

- Continue mowing procedures from March – October documenting daily duration spent and problems encountered while mowing each park area.
- Provide well maintained park grounds and rights-of-way to the community by following a daily cleaning schedule and weekly mowing schedule that is efficient and effective .

Create and sustain attractive landscapes in a cost-effective manner.

- Construct and follow a monthly landscape maintenance program to include: weeding, trimming, mulching and planting within all flower beds and landscaped areas.

Ensure that restrooms, shelters, trails, playgrounds, spray grounds, sports fields and tennis courts are clean, safe and attractive for public use.

- Document daily cleaning on all restrooms and shelters during peak season.
- Staff will average a 30-minute response time to citizen calls with issues regarding restrooms.

## **Community Center Division Goals**

Provide quality aquatic programs to meet the needs of the community within the facilities available, while still maintaining open space for facility member use; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Have quality instructors who enhance participants' learning experience by monitoring trends within the aquatic industry.
- Maintain 85% class capacity.
- Generate 40% net revenue on classes.
- Receive "meets or exceeds expectations" on 75% of surveys returned.

Provide quality aerobic programs to meet the needs of the community within the facilities available for programs, while still maintaining open space for facility member use; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Have quality instructors who enhance participants' workout experience by monitoring trends within the aerobic industry.
- Maintain 50% class capacity.
- Generate 40% net revenue on classes.
- Receive "meets or exceeds expectations" on 75% of surveys returned.



## ***Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget Goals***

### **Community Center Division Cont.....**

Provide quality recreational programs that meet the interests of the community within the available facilities, while still maintaining space for facility rentals; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Have quality instructors who enhance participants' learning experience by monitoring trends within the recreation industry.
- Maintain 50% class capacity.
- Generate 30% net revenue on classes.
- Receive "meets or exceeds expectations" on 75% of surveys returned.

Provide quality cultural experiences that provide a wide-range appeal to the community based on theater availability and the Parks and Recreation Department's policy to offer programs for which revenue meets or exceeds expenditures; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Provide quality entertainment and programs that enhance the cultural experience by monitoring trends within the performing arts industry.
- Maintain 60% maximum ticket sales capacity.
- Generate 20% of ticket sales through repeat buyers.
- Generate 80% of ticket sales through new buyers.

Provide quality rental facilities for the community while maintaining space for facility member and program patron use; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Provide quality facilities and amenities that enhance the rental experience within the available space.
- Increase new theatre rental clients by 40%
- Generate 30% net revenue for theater rentals.
- Retain 60% of current rental clients in theater.
- Increase rental hours by 5% over previous year for meeting room space.

Provide quality facilities for community use, staffed by customer-friendly employees, while maintaining space for program patron use; to generate revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Provide a clean and well-maintained facility.
- Retain 50% of the annual memberships.
- Receive "meets or exceeds expectations" on 75% of surveys returned.

Provide quality and varied adult trips to meet the interests of the community, specifically targeted to the senior population; to generate additional revenue to support the overall function of the Liberty Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.

- Provide quality and varied trips that enhance the clients experience.
- Generate 10% more revenue than expenses
- Maintain a 50% maximum trip capacity

# ***Parks and Recreation***

## ***2009 Budget Goals***

### **Sports Complex / Sports Programs Division**

Provide adults the opportunity to participate in softball, football, volleyball, basketball and soccer in a safe well maintained environment at a cost comparative to local markets.

- Provide a high level of quality customer service monitored by utilizing evaluations.
- Evaluation forms will be provided to each manager every session. An average rating of two will be deemed as an acceptable level of customer service.
- Continue to document safety inspections of fields and facilities on a monthly schedule.

Maintain or improve the number of teams enrolled in each league per session.

- Current league numbers: Adult Softball – 60 per session; Adult Flag Football – 10 per session; Adult Volleyball – 20 per session; Adult Basketball – 25 per session; Adult Soccer – Re-establish the league.

Maintain surrounding grounds in a neat and clean manner with well-groomed, disease and weed free playing surface. Provide safe and clean playgrounds. Ensure restrooms are cleaned and maintained daily April - October.

- Perform daily inspections of grounds and document daily.
- Follow checklists for daily cleaning of restrooms, playgrounds and surrounding areas.
- Inspect all playgrounds and document necessary repairs.
- Inspect all turf daily and follow weed turf control programs.

Ensure employees are trained in all aspects of concessions/admissions operation. Including stocking concessions daily with a variety of food and drink; providing a checks and balance system for concession/admission deposits; and auditing start cash daily to ensure proper handling.

- Hold monthly staff meetings and trainings focusing on customer service, proper money handling and addressing current issues/concerns.
- Ensure all employees attend Clay County food handler class.
- Continue daily checklists for opening/closing procedures for concession stands with all procedures completed 9 out of 10 shifts.
- Continue deposit sheet sign off procedure at the completion of each shift to increase staff member accountability. This procedure should be completed correctly 9 out of 10 shifts.
- Explore providing new concession items to meet the needs of the patrons during the annual vendor bid process.
- Rotate stock monthly to ensure fresh food and to reduce waste.
- Prior to the start of the season, seek bids from food and drink vendors that provide high quality products at the lowest cost to the consumer.

# ***Parks and Recreation***

## ***2009 Budget Goals***

### **Sports Complex / Sports Programs Division cont.**

Allow youth and adults the opportunity to participate in tournaments in a safe, well-maintained environment at a cost comparative to the local market. Offer six events that qualify teams to move on to a World Series or national event and hold at least one World Series or National tournament per season.

- Distribute tournament evaluations to managers with a goal of achieving overall satisfaction rating of two.
- Continue to document safety inspections of fields and facilities on a monthly basis.
- Continue communication with maintenance staff on conditions of fields and gyms by holding monthly meetings.
- Continue annual bid process with awards vendors to attain best awards possible at the budgeted price. This will keep the cost of tournament play competitive with the local markets.
- Attend annual national conventions to acquire a World Series or national event for upcoming seasons.
- Apply to sanctioning bodies for qualifying events that will provide teams the opportunity to advance to World Series or national events.

Provide youth the opportunity to participate in basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball and flag football utilizing the best available facilities in a safe environment while providing quality programs at a cost comparative to local market. Maintain or improve the number of teams in all leagues while providing one practice time for each team in the league on well maintained fields/facilities.

- Utilize the department brochure, Bi-weekly Rec News Flash, city's web site and news channel to advertise program information prior to each league. Distribute program information and flyers to the Liberty Public School District one month prior to the deadline of each program, following their stated policies.
- Distribute program evaluations to participants in each league with a goal of achieving an over all rating of a two or better.
- Continue to document safety inspections of fields and facilities on a monthly basis.
- Accomplish budgeted league numbers: Competitive Baseball (50 teams), Recreation Basketball (1,050 participants), Soccer (900) and Recreational Baseball (800).
- Continue communication with maintenance staff on conditions of fields and gyms by holding monthly meetings.



# ***Parks and Recreation***

## ***2009 Budget Goals***

### **Aging Services**

Oversee all operations of Aging Services and continue to provide staff support for the Liberty Community Christmas Tree (LCCT) and Meals on Wheels, Inc (M.O.W.). Continue to provide grant funding reports for Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), participate in training opportunities provided by the City of Liberty and keep up to date on current aging trends. Provide support services for Meals on Wheels Inc., by transporting meals from the hospital to the pick-up location for volunteers; and providing staff support on days when M.O.W. coordinator is not in the office.

- Monitor budgeted funds, equipment and supplies ensuring responsible spending.
- Assist 130 older adults and 175 families through the LCCT program.
- Submit all monthly MARC reports by deadline (the first Monday of the following month.)
- Submit all quarterly MARC reports by deadline requested (the last day of the month following the quarter.)
- Participate in all monthly training provided by the City of Liberty.

**ACCESS BUS** - To provide reliable, convenient and affordable transportation in clean, well-maintained vehicles and provide excellent customer service to riders.

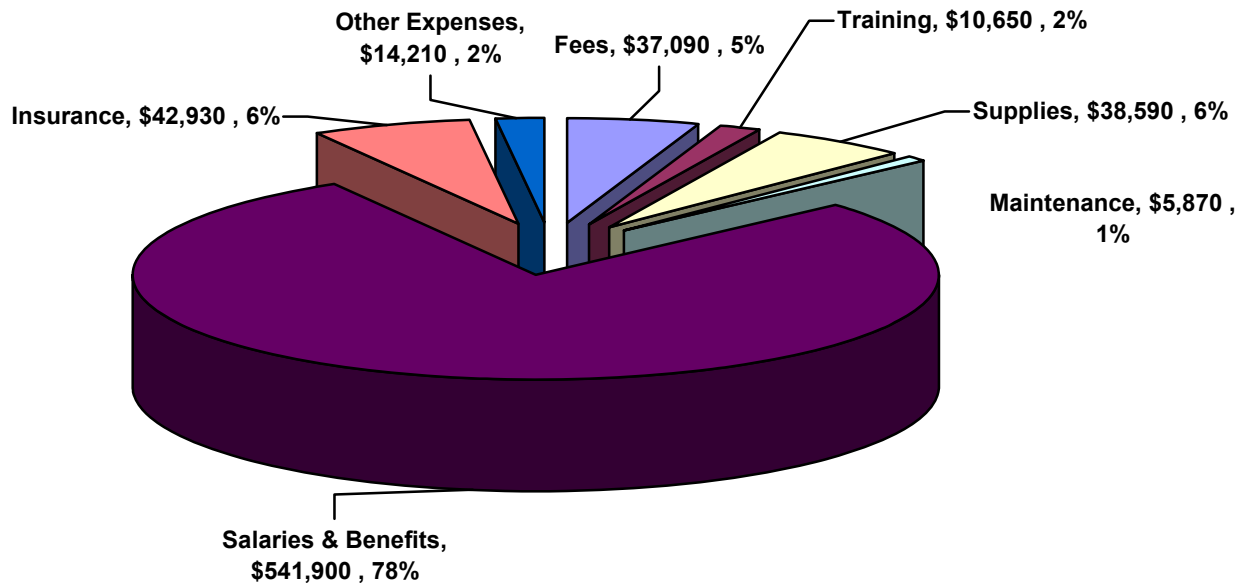
- Monitor budgeted funds, equipment and supplies ensuring responsible spending.
- Inspect buses daily, and record results on a log maintained by each driver.
- Repair problems will be reported to supervisor the same day; supervisor will make arrangements for repairs to be made within 24 hours.
- Return all phone calls within 24 hours or the next business day.
- Pick up participants within 5 minutes of scheduled time.
- Participate in all city provided training including but not limited to safe driving classes.
- Provide at least 6,400 one way rides in 2009.

**SENIOR CENTER** - To provide a safe and enjoyable environment at the Senior Center by continuing to offer a wide range of activities to meet the general need of the participants.

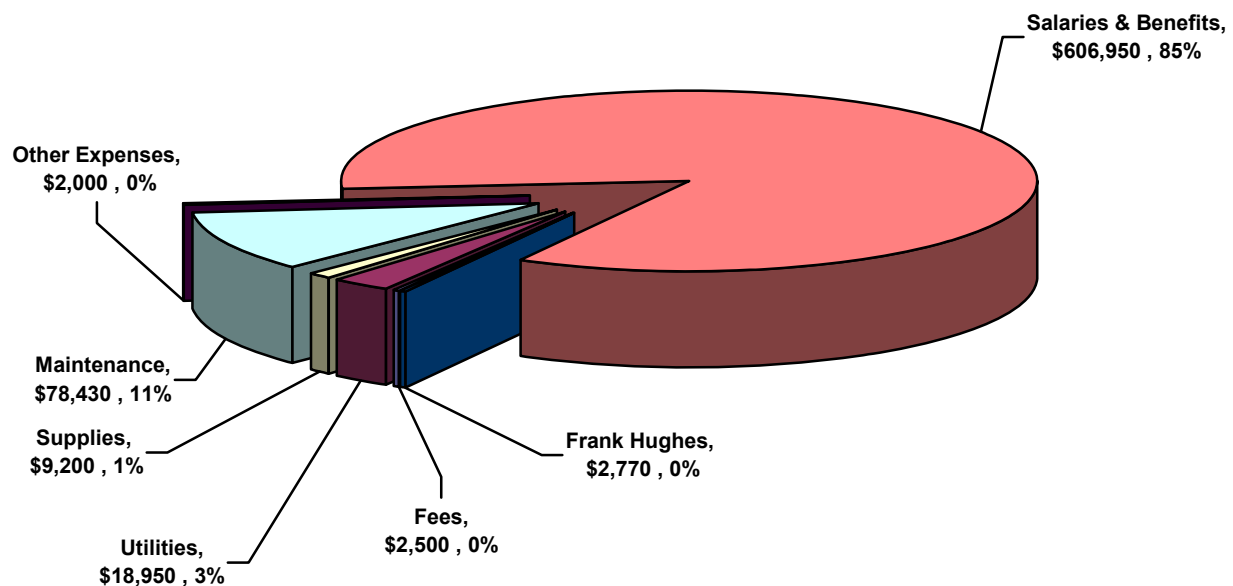
- Monitor budgeted funds, equipment and supplies ensuring responsible spending.
- Participate in all monthly training provided by the City of Liberty.
- Participate in annual MARC conference.
- Provide at least four programs a month above and beyond daily activities that can be classified as one or more of the following: recreational, cultural, educational or social.
- Provide at least one health program each month.
- Provide lunch for a minimum of 125 persons a month.

# *Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget*

## Administration Expenditures

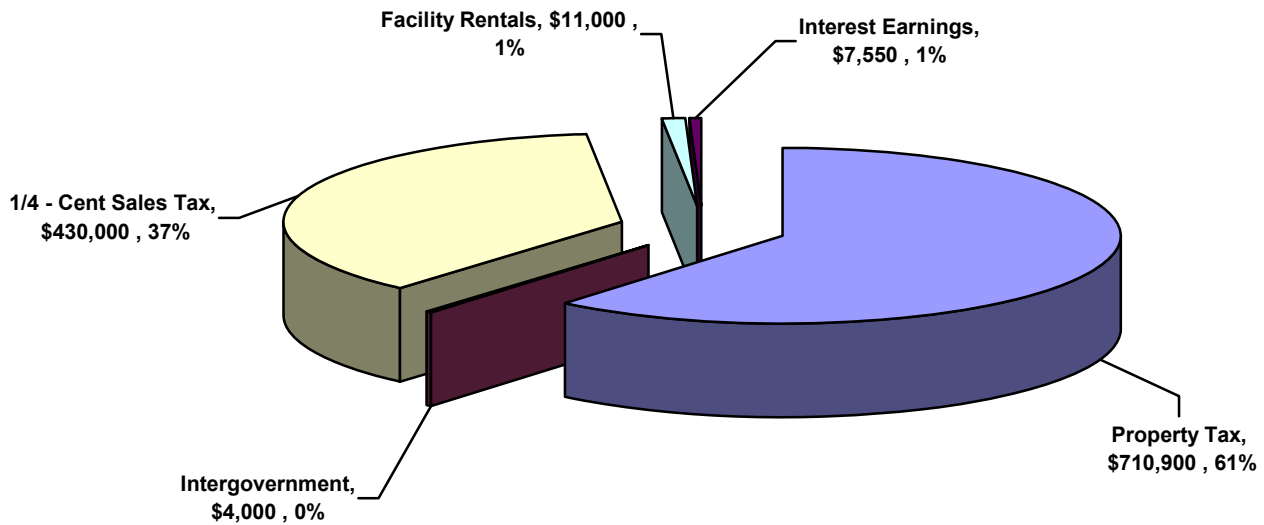


## Park Maintenance Expenditures

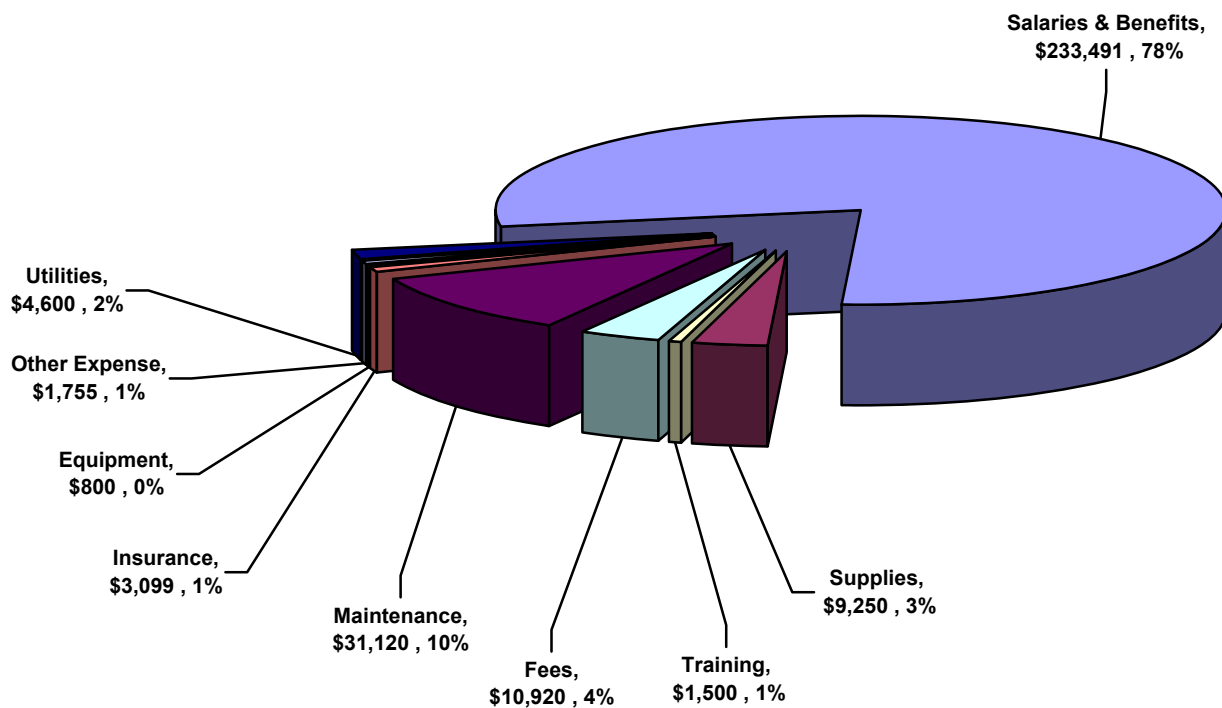


# *Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget*

## Administration / Park Maintenance Revenue



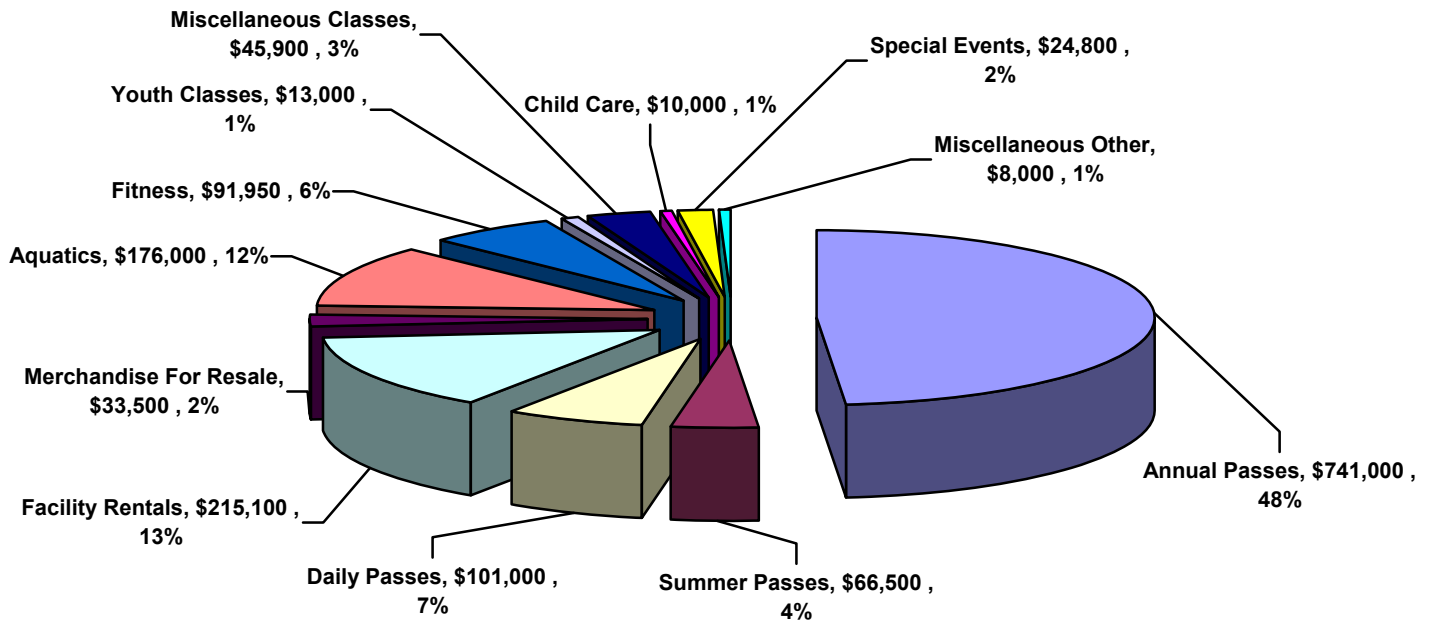
## Aging Services Division Expenditures



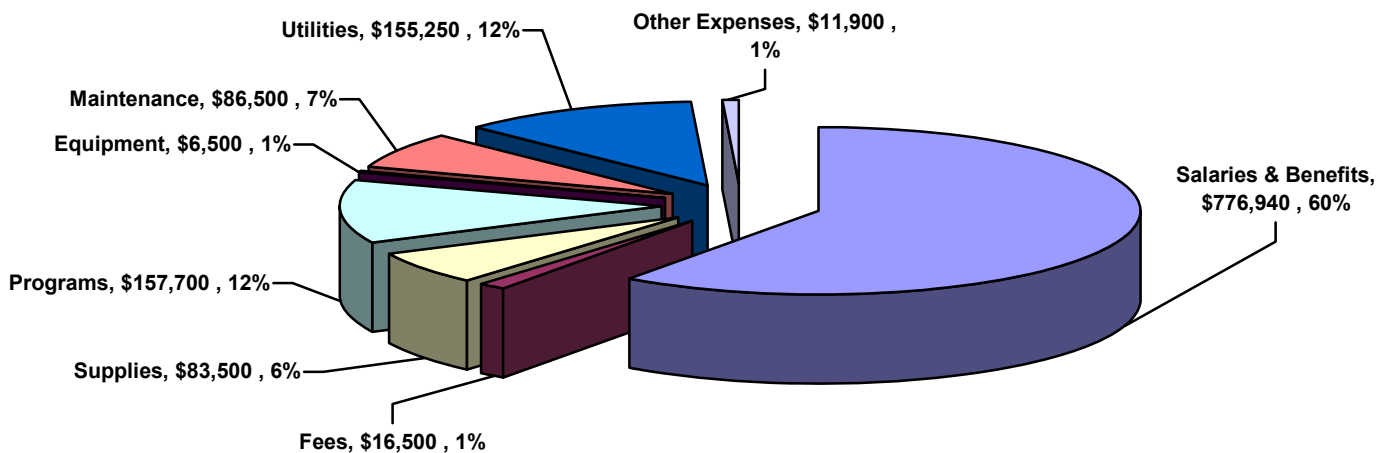


# *Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget*

## Community Center Revenue

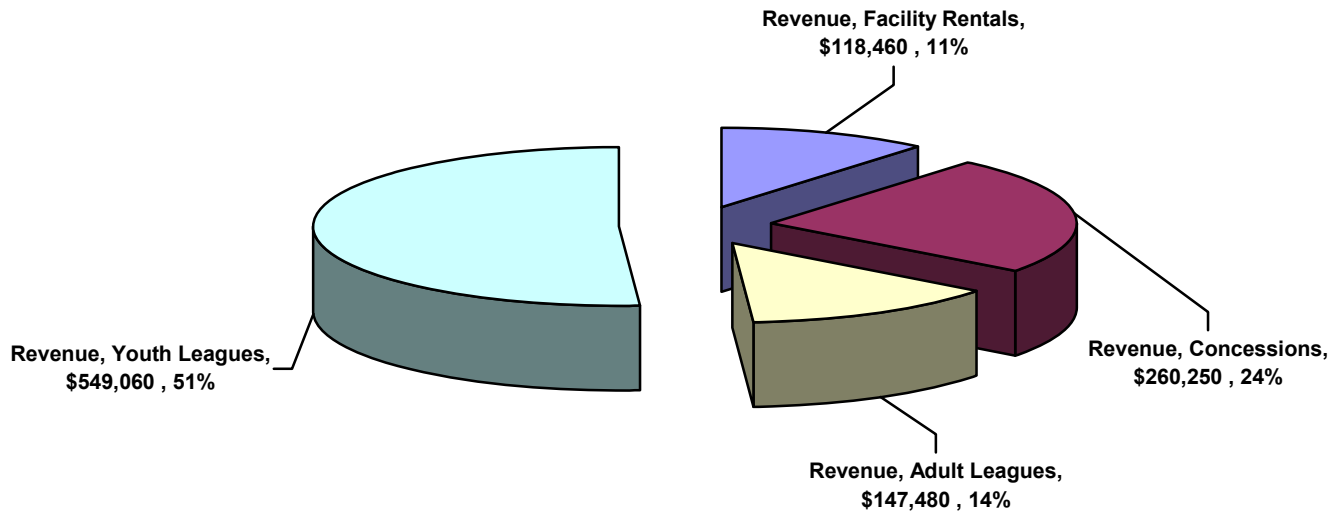


## Community Center Expenditures

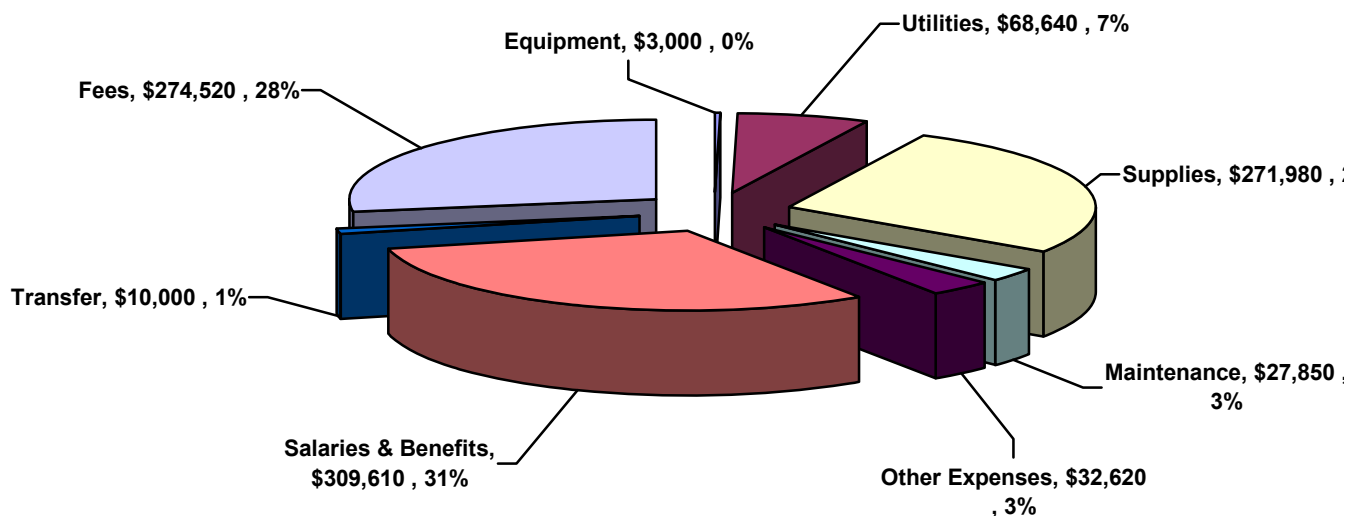


# *Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget*

## Sports Complex / Sports Programs Revenue

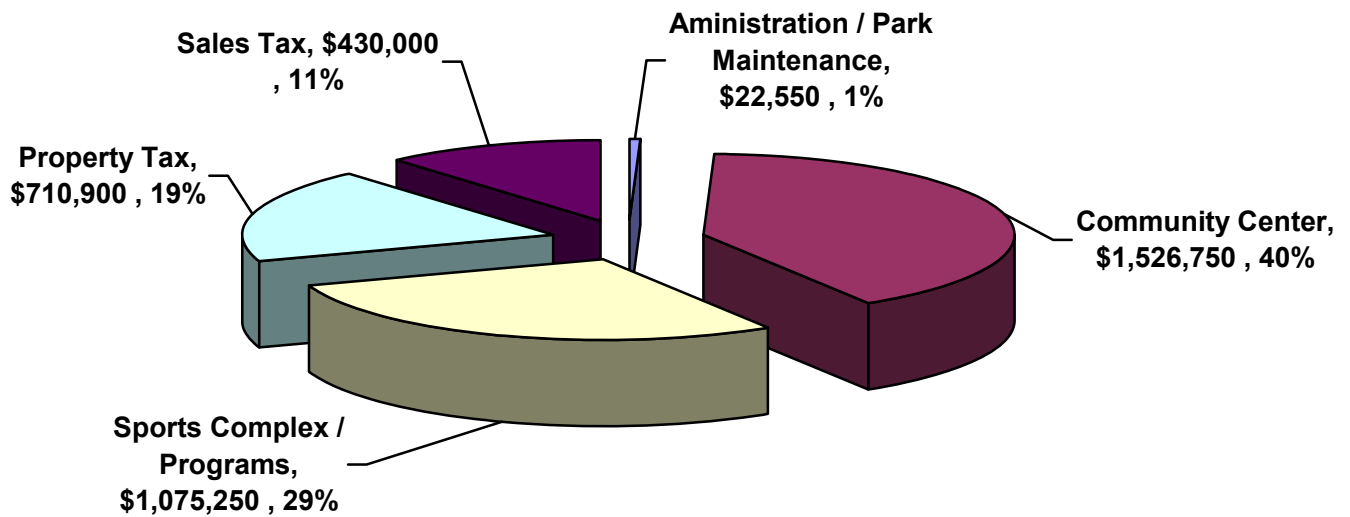


## Sports Complex / Sports Programs Expenditures

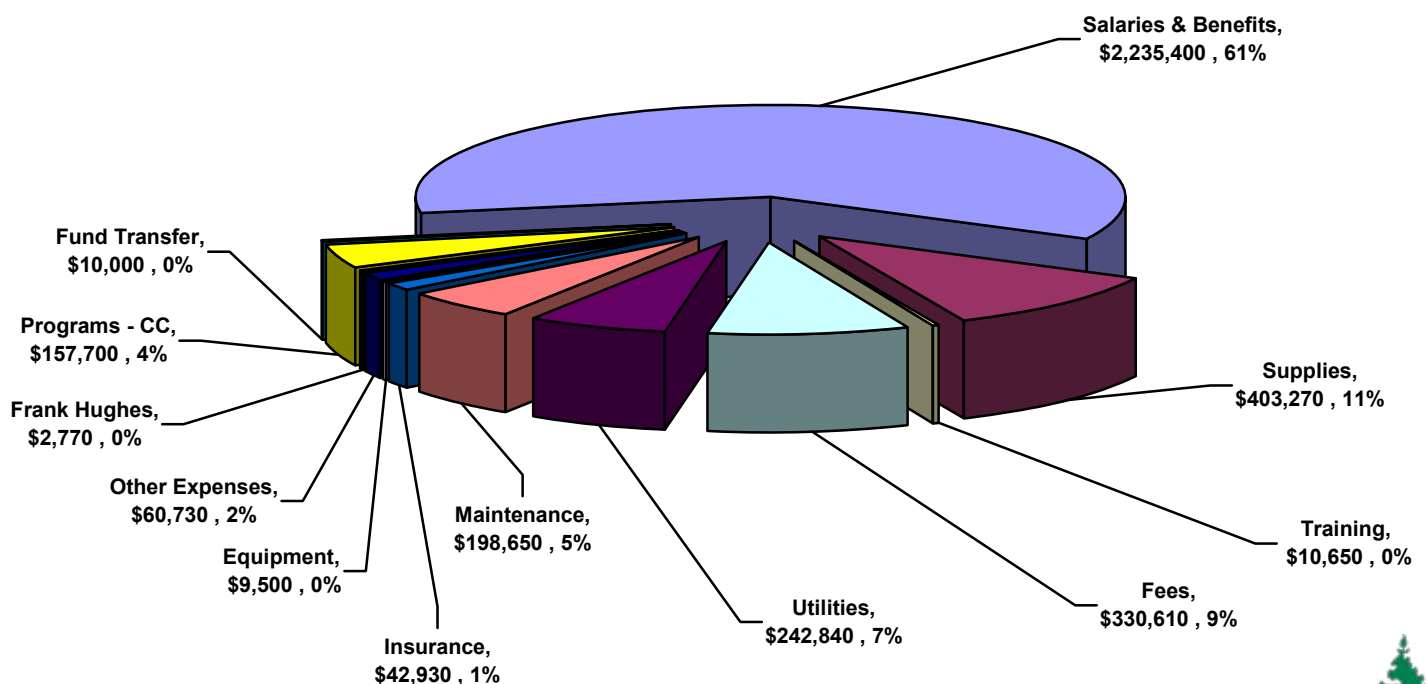


# *Parks and Recreation 2009 Budget*

## Total Parks and Recreation Revenues



## Total Parks and Recreation Expenditures





## 2009 - "On the Horizon"

The Liberty Parks and Recreation Department will continue its commitment to its citizens to provide hundreds of recreational, educational and fitness programs that refresh the mind and body of all ages. Our services and programs give residents a place to play, gather, learn and relax. We provide not only community buildings but places for building a community.



Our goal is to provide all the residents with a wide variety of high-quality recreation services and opportunities. The department provides quality fitness, cultural arts and aquatic programs at the Liberty Community Center; while youth and adult sporting leagues and tournaments are provided at Fountain Bluff Sports Complex. Our citizens are provided with opportunities to learn, grow and compete at some of the finest facilities in the Midwest. Both facilities continue to bring numerous opportunities for our citizens to have exposure to cultural events and sporting events that attract visitors from outside our community and region.

2009 will have its challenges as we strive to become a fiscally responsible organization, stretching revenue farther than ever before. A comprehensive evaluation of all park facilities is a priority this year to determine the greatest area of needed improvement to the park system. Developing sound budgeting practices that focus on transparent accountability will increase awareness of how tax dollars are spent.

We must work to improve our core park services, particularly Bennett Park, Stocksdale Park and City Park. By improving these facilities and our trail system, citizens will have quality facilities for picnics, walking, hiking and relaxing with family and friends. We must maintain the infrastructure and continue to use the ¼-cent Park Sales Tax in a prudent manner to meet the needs of our citizens.



Our Park Maintenance Division will purchase, if funding is available, mowers to more efficiently maintain parkland and continue the standard of excellence desired of the park system. Staff will concentrate efforts on repairing asphalt areas to improve the trail system, addressing building structure issues to upgrade facilities such as painting, replacing boards and shingles throughout 2009.

## 2009 - "On the Horizon"

The Community Center will again focus on maintaining the center through dedicated and friendly staff. The cleanliness of the facilities has and always will be a priority. 2009 will bring the additions of three



new treadmills and other fitness equipment, an upgrade to the security system to monitor areas of the building and parking lot to keep patrons safe, and improvements to the theater with new stage curtains. Major structural work is scheduled to be completed with the replacement of the entire facility roof to protect the building and community assets as well as replacement of the Natatorium HVAC unit.

The Fountain Bluff Sports Complex will once again host many sporting events in 2009. Highlighting this year's offering will be four National Championship tournaments including the USSSA 13 & Under AAA World Series and the ASA Men's C Northern National Championship. Hundreds of quality youth and adult sports league games will be played at the complex including soccer, softball, baseball and football games. The complex will also once again host the 2009 Liberty4thFest on July 4. It will continue to be utilized by citizens for passive recreational opportunities like walking, fishing, picnicking or bird watching. Trying to spot the American Bald Eagles that frequents the site has become a true treasure for this facility. The complex will also have improvements made if funding with upgrades to maintenance equipment and will replace portable fencing and wind screening.



The Parks Charitable Fund will continue to find ways to support the Parks system through charitable giving opportunities. The establishment of the Scholarship Fund for local youth who cannot afford to pay for programs will continue to be a priority for the group. The Charitable Fund will be sponsoring events in 2009 to raise money to fund this worthwhile endeavor. The board will also be establishing a Park Bench and Heritage Tree Program during 2009 and developing a web page for individuals to get information about the programs and opportunities for people to contribute to the fund.

The Parks and Recreation Department provides citizens many recreational opportunities that add to the city's livability. But the question remains, how do our parks and recreation programs and the agency entrusted to care for this public asset benefit Liberty's livability? We do so by contributing to the environmental, social, cultural, physical and economic health of the city and its residents. The Parks and Recreation staff will continue to serve our growing and vibrant community in a professional and responsible manner in 2009 and beyond.

You're free to play

*Liberty*  
missouri



## Community Partners

